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NATO Official Says Cooperation With CIS Entering 'New Stage'

LD0209184693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1737 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—A NATO delegation, led by Germany's Ambassador to NATO Hermann Freiherr von Richthofen, visited Russia and Belarus for the past several days and is leaving for Ukraine on Thursday.

During its two-day visit to Moscow, the NATO team met with officials from the Russian Foreign and Defence Ministries, and with legislators and academics.

Von Richthofen said the Moscow visit aimed to discuss problems of cooperation between the NATO alliance and CIS countries, as well as to work out recommendations for further development of this cooperation. He told a news conference on Thursday [2 September] that the end of the Cold War era paved the way for a new stage in the establishment of contacts and cooperation between the former foes.

Von Richthofen described the current visit as exceptionally interesting and productive. We intend to recommend the NATO leaders to proceed to the second stage of cooperation with Russia and other CIS countries, the delegation head stressed, since we all adhere to the same principles of democracy, law and free market economy.

Answering a question from TASS, von Richthofen said this cooperation started two years ago, when the North Atlantic Cooperation Council was set up in Brussels. Apart from the NATO states, the council groups former Warsaw Pact countries and Soviet republics. The council is scheduled to meet in a regular session in Belgium this December with a view to approve the plan of actions providing, in particular, for measures to diversify cooperation in the military sphere and conversion of military production. In application to science and ecology, it will above all mean a system of measures aiming to clean up the after-effects of military production and weapons liquidation.

Von Richthofen told reporters he did not rule out a possibility of Eastern European nations and CIS countries joining the NATO alliance.

'Danger' of Russian Troops to Baltic Security Noted

WS0209102793 Tallinn BNS in English 1934 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Visby, Sweden, Sept 01, BNS—Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste called on Russia to withdraw its troops from Estonia by Christmas.

Velliste told the Baltic and Nordic foreign ministers Tuesday [31 August] of his concerns over Russia's continued military presence and stressed the danger it poses to Baltic security.

The Estonian foreign minister wants as much cooperation among the Baltic states as there is among many central European countries.

He also emphasized Estonia's desire to integrate with the Nordic countries, saying that it works already "on the grass-root level." Estonia, he said, expects to conclude bilateral free-trade agreements with Sweden and Finland after they join the European Community.

Conference on Future Security Opens in Vilnius

LD0209101593 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] An international conference entitled Future Security opened today in the Karolina Hotel in Vilnius. It is organized by the Baltic Region Research Center and the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defense. The conference is attended by scientists, military men, and politicians from Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, the United States, and other foreign states, and by NATO officials. It is also attended by the heads of foreign missions and military attaches accredited in Lithuania.

The conference was opened by [name indistinct], president of the Baltic Region Research Center. The guests were welcomed by Lithuanian Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas and by Lithuanian National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius. A detailed report about the preservation of peace and the creation of a new concept of the NATO countries was made by General [name indistinct], deputy commander of the NATO Armed Forces in Europe.

The conference will continue for two days.

Almaty Prepares for Asian Security Conference

PM0309102393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Sep 93 p 3

[Anatoliy Ladin report in "From Our Information Bureau" roundup: "Idea of Setting Up a Security System in Asia Under Discussion"]

[Text] A second meeting of experts to prepare a conference on collaboration and confidence building measures in Asia took place in the Kazakh capital of Almaty 30 August. It involved representatives of 24 Asian states, as well as the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the League of Arab States, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

The conference on collaboration and confidence building measures in Asia is being viewed as a process of peaceful coexistence and cooperation among the Asian countries for the purposes of establishing a regime of stability and prosperity in this part of the world. Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev was first to promote the idea for such a conference.

Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan Discuss Arms Cuts

LD0209095393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0750 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Tashkent September 2 TASS—Defence ministers of Russia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan met here on Thursday [2 September] to discuss their share in reducing the conventional weapons which were withdrawn to the Urals from the European part of the former Soviet Union.

The armaments include 6,000 tanks, 1,500 armoured vehicles, 7,000 artillery systems.

"We have conducted preparatory work, arrived to an understanding with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and today we have to agree on concrete numbers of combat systems liable for reduction by each of the sides and to initial a joint statement of our governments", Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said upon arrival to Tashkent.

He is negotiating with his Uzbek counterpart Rustam Akhmedov and Kazakh Defence Minister Tsigodat Nurmagambetov.

Defense Ministers Initial Statement

LD0209183493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1811 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS military observer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Tashkent September 2 TASS—Defense ministers of Russia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan—Pavel Grachev, Rustam Akhmedov and Sagadat Nurmagambetov—initialed here on Thursday a joint statement of their countries' governments on principles of the implementation of the June 14, 1991 statement of USSR representatives in the Joint Consultative Group.

This group is the body coordinating the implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe which was signed in 1990 and finally ratified in 1992. The document envisages the reduction by 6,000 tanks, 1,500 combat armored machines and 7,000 artillery systems from the contingent of military weapons which were moved behind the Ural before the treaty's ratification.

The sides agreed to reduce military systems stationed on their territories in quotas which had been established at the Moscow meeting on August 24-25 this year.

The joint statement by the defense ministers of the three countries is subject to the signing at the level of heads of state after which it will be sent to the Vienna-based headquarters of the Joint Consultative Group.

Editorial Notes Lack of Cooperation Among Baltic Premiers

WS3108094193 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 17 Aug 93 No. 157 p 4

[From the "Editorial Column": "1+1+1=2"]

[Text] In last Friday's [13 August] "Editorial Column" we expressed our doubts about the success of the prime minister's widely advertised visit to Latvia. A. Slezevicius announced that his initiative to hold a meeting of prime ministers from the three Baltic states was assessed positively, and that they would discuss a lot of important questions and sign a protocol on the trilateral free-trade agreement.

On Friday evening, when the Latvian president was speaking about cooperation among Baltic states, it was almost clear that the trilateral agreement was turning into a bilateral one, because Estonian Prime Minister M. Laar did not intend to attend the meeting. The latter explained his absence by saying that the Lithuanian prime minister was hasty in announcing his initiative. This element in our government's behavior is nothing new in Lithuania—we were convinced several times that plans and reality differ quite a bit. The meeting in Riga was between two prime ministers: A. Slezevicius and V. Birkavs. On Monday morning, it was impossible to find out from the government press service who was accompanying the prime minister. ELTA did not report the members of the delegation until 1340—three ministers, the chairman of the Lithuanian Bank Board, and head of the Customs Department.

The delegations had to negotiate until 1600, hold a press conference after that, and leave by 1645. We learned all this not from ELTA, which is held in such high esteem by the government, but by calling Riga.

Lithuania is trying to assume the role of a unifier in announcing the affinity of Baltic interests. However, it is not the first time that Estonia has stood coolly aside. Yesterday's meeting in Riga discussed the conclusion of the free-trade agreement (we wonder what it will be like without Estonia), the issues of transport and energy, and visa regulations (how will Estonia's interests be taken into account?). It is unlikely that the prime ministers' discussions can decide the development of Estonia's relations, because two does not mean three. Lithuania's decision to include D. Matulionis, Lithuanian charge d'affaires to Estonia, in the delegation will be of little use here. He is far from being the prime minister.

Why did not all three countries meet? Estonian political commentators note their prime minister's negative opinion of the new Lithuanian Government. Even though M. Laar is an historian, he cannot isolate himself from allusions to the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party's past. On the other hand, Lithuania has also "accomplished" a lot in destroying relations: The strange story of Russia's wish to promulgate a peace treaty with

Estonia, the endless issue of "Via Baltica," periodically arising visa problems, and so on and so forth.

A. Slezevicius speculated on Thursday that not all the documents were properly drafted. It turned out that the prime ministers' meeting was organized inadequately. Certainly, the Lithuanian and Latvian prime ministers can meet for taiks. However, yesterday's meeting expressed a desire to not "lose face," as they say in Europe. Official information sources remained silent on what we "discovered" in Riga. They were probably quite objective in the evening.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Sep

LD0209061293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0442 GMT 2 Sep 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 2 (ITAR-TASS)—Many Russian newspapers focus on the Russian president's decree on suspending Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko from their duties. Commenting on this document, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper notes that "Yeltsin gave two trump cards to the already disgraced vice-president by suspending Shumeyko and Rutskoy from their duties".

"The first: the suspension of Shumeyko indicates that Yeltsin does not trust the vice-premier when the latter speaks of his innocence," the newspaper notes. "Therefore, the vice-president can start searching documents compromising his opponent.

"Second: expressing no-confidence in the vice-president together with the vice-premier, Yeltsin gives Rutskoy a chance to say that the action was conceived to deliver another strike on the vice-president, exploiting the fact that it is already impossible to save Shumeyko."

The TRUD newspaper, reporting the president's decree, quotes a response from Russian Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov to this decision. Khasbulatov said that the legislature will examine this document at its session.

Small doubt, the speaker stressed, that the session will repeal the decree. "I'd like to say even before parliament debates the decree that the document is illegal," he added.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA front-pages an analysis on the influence of 100 leading Russian politicians on the situation in the country in August. According to the newspaper, "the influence of the presidential team has decreased: a pre-referendum situation has returned. The president's rating again dropped. The gap between him and Khasbulatov narrowed".

The newspaper notes that the influence of the opposing heads of the executive and legislative arms of government on Russia's foreign and domestic policies gained greater balance.

"Advantages won by the presidential team as a result of the April referendum nearly ceased to tell on their rating late in summer," the newspaper adds.

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper reminds its readers of the recent trip to military units by Russian president and commander-in-chief of the armed forces Boris Yeltsin where he expressed satisfaction with combat preparedness of units.

Speaking about the military reform, the president stressed that, in his opinion, "the army has already got rid of the psychological shock after the collapse of the Soviet Union. There were apprehensions that it will disperse, and we shall not bring it back together". Now, the Russian Army exists. It is powerful and organised, the president stressed.

Yeltsin noted in an interview with journalists that reforms are in progress in the army. He expressed dissatisfaction at the same time that it is impossible to tackle many problems of the military due to a hard financial situation in the country.

According to the president, there are only 100,000 troops in the army serving on contract, while the figure should be three times higher.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper runs an interview with legislator Gennadi Sayenko, secretary of a commission set up by the Eighth Congress of People's Deputies (extended parliament) to investigate into the sale of 31 tonnes of Russian gold abroad on orders from ex-Premier Yegor Gaydar.

According to the lawmaker, many violations of legislation were committed in deals with gold.

The PRAVDA newspaper carries a letter by ex-minister of security Viktor Barannikov to the president. He notes that the federal system of security was formed in Russia rather than a simple new institute—a security ministry.

"The president, the government, parliament and every individual Russian could equally rely on this system". Speaking of reasons for his resignation, Barannikov noted that the pretext for it was not the incident on the Tajik-Afghan border but actions by those who did not like him, including "ultra radicals" who waited for a support from the security ministry for their policy, "bureaucrats with mafia connections who have a serious political cover and for whom the security ministry was very inconvenient".

Barannikov said that he was also inconvenient for those who saw no need "for a strong federal system of state security in Russia".

Press Review for 3 Sep

LD0309101493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0445 GMT 3 Sep 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—Today's press continues to comment on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree on the suspension of Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy and First Vice-Premier Vladimir Shumeyko from the exercise of their duties.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) writes that the presidential decree is expected to be discussed at the Russian parliament session on Friday [3 September]. Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the parliamentary Committee for Constitutional Legislation, believes that the decree brings about an opportunity to apply article 121-6 of the constitution to the president, the newspaper points out.

The constitution article stipulates that the powers of the president may not be used to dissolve or suspend the activities of any lawfully elected state power bodies. Otherwise, the powers shall be terminated immediately.

"However, Mr. Isakov admitted that, so far, there is no mechanism to implement this article. The committee chairman said he visualises two versions of the article's application: either the congress would announce, on the strength of the constitutional court's judgement, that Boris Yeltsin's powers are terminated or the congress would do the same without any judgement from the constitutional court. Yeltsin's decree is most likely to be discussed today, its application of will be suspended and an appropriate legislation will be referred to the constitutional court," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out.

"A September batttle, announced by the president, has begun, it seems," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Writes. "And Aleksandr Rutskoy became the first target of the attack. The exchange of the vice-premier for the vice-president, as visualised by strategists from among Boris Yeltsin's entourage, hits the most powerful figure on the other side. And still, considering the fighting qualities of the vice-president and his friends from parliament, one can predict that the president's bold cavalry dash (on the plea that if a person is without powers, it means that he lacks legal status) would develop into a protracted sanguinary battle."

In another article, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA points out that "Shumeyko's departure is not so unambiguous as it would seem at first glance. Among Yeltsin's encourage, he now has the most powerful influence on the president. But clouds gathering around him apparently prompted the president's advisers (and Vladimir Shumeyko himself) to rely on the simple folk wisdom: "to quit in order to remain." The more so as he was assailed from his own camp as well."

PRAVDA's opinion is that "the very emergence of such a presidential decree is the most flagrant breach of the Constitution of the Russian Federation. The issuance of the decree is illustrative of utter legal ignorance and irresponsibility of persons who drafted the document. One and the same decree deals with persons of quite different standings: the vice-president, who was elected by the people on the strength of universal polling, and the vice-premier—a state official appointed by the president."

"To place the two on the same footing is simply immoral," the newspaper maintains. "This means disrespect not only for the vice-president but, primarily, for the constituents who voted for him. One has only to hope that the people's deputies, the public and the voters will not ignore this fact and will take appropriate steps at an earliest date," the newspaper concludes.

Chernomyrdin Still in U.S.; Meets Officials

, Meets Gore; Signs Documents

LD0309084193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0805 GMT 3 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Washington September 3 TASS—The first session of the Intergovernment Commission on Cooperation in Energy and Space ended on Thursday [2 September] with signing a package of documents on the development of cooperation in energy and space explorations.

Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore who co-chaired the session, signed the Memorandum of Mutual Understanding between the Russian and U.S. Governments on the Export of Missile Technology, the Intergovernment Agreement on International Trade in Commercial Space Launchings and the joint statement on the development of cooperation in space explorations.

After the end of the commission's deliberations, the two statesmen also signed some other documents, including the memorandum of cooperation in fuel raw materials and the memorandum on measures of transparency to the Russian-American Intergovernment Agreement on the Use of Uranium Extracted from Nuclear Weapons.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Gore said that it is high time for the United States and Russia to abandon the last vestiges of the Cold War and to develop new partnership relations.

Such partnership can yield the most impressive results for cooperation in high technologies. The two countries spent immense sums of money to compete each other during the Cold War, he continued. They achieved much, but they paid a high price for this.

The two nations can now cooperate in various spheres, including energy, space explorations, science and technology. Such cooperation is a mutually advantageous thing, since it considerably cuts costs of the two sides, the vice-president stressed.

Gore singled out a reached understanding on cooperation in space explorations, which is aimed at possible joint work in building a "truly international space station".

He noted that a project suggested by the heads of the two countries' space agencies and providing for the use of the Russian MIR space complex and American shuttles at the first stage of work, will considerably save resources of the two countries and enable them to cut by several years the time of functioning of the international space station.

The vice-president pointed to the great importance of signing the memorandum of mutual understanding between the two governments on the export of missile technology.

Russia's agreement to observe the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR], Gore continued, shows its readiness to be a responsible partner in sales of high technology. This is an extremely important step which is hailed by the United States, he added.

Chernomyrdin called the results of the first session of the Intergovernment Commission as "concrete and impressive". Under the present conditions in the world, economic cooperation with all its multiplicity is coming to the fore in Russian-American relations, he continued.

A mechanism to promote the development of economic, scientific and technical cooperation was set up for the first time at such a high level as a follow-up of the Vancouver understandings between the Russian and U.S. presidents.

The Agreement on International Trade in Commercial Space Launchings ensures Russia's access to the world high technology market, the Russian premier went on to say. The joint statements on cooperation in space research, aeronautics and environmental monitoring from space open new vistas for cooperation in space domestication.

An understanding was reached for future cooperation in building a manned space station of a new generation.

Commenting on the Intergovernment Memorandum of Mutual Understanding on the Export of Missile Technology, Chernomyrdin said that the document records Russia's intention to join the International Missile Technology Control Regime.

"We welcome the agreement on the MTCR and will strictly observe it in accordance with our understanding formulated at the end of the commission's joint meeting," Chernomyrdin stressed.

The Russian premier also praised the Memorandum of Cooperation in Fuel Raw Materials and the Memorandum on Measures of Transparency to the Intergovernment Agreement on the Use of Enriched Uranium Extracted from Nuclear Weapons.

The prime minister said that he invited Gore to visit Russia to co-chair the next session of the Intergovernment Commission. Apart from this, Chernomyrdin invited the U.S. vice-president to come to Russia on an unofficial visit.

Discusses Space, Energy Cooperation

PM0209143793 Moscow POSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 1 Sep 93 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report: "We Talk Business With U.S. Business. After Visiting Cape Canaveral Space Center and St. Louis Nuclear Power Plant, Viktor Chernomyrdin Arrives in Washington"]

[Text] Yesterday morning, after carrying out an intense program of talks and business meetings in Houston, the head of the Russian Government arrived in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Here he had an equally difficult task—he spent a day traveling around the U.S. eastern testing ground and visiting the Cape Canaveral launch complex, then flying on to the St. Louis nuclear power plant by helicopter to take part in "mopping up" (on a training site, of course) a full-scale "accident" at the power station.

In effect, this program was the logical extension of the work started the day before in Houston, where Viktor Stepanovich met with the NASA leadership, studied a model of the Freedom orbital station, and visited a space shuttle simulator. He also spoke to U.S. and Russian astronauts preparing for a joint eight-hour flight on the shuttle Discovery.

"On board" the full-scale model of the Freedom station, NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin told the Russian premier that when developing this station U.S. specialists had learned a great deal from their Russian colleagues, who have a great deal of experience in this field. "Our countries' scientists and specialists spent a long time working on the development of arms and missiles aimed against one another; now they are able to work together, complementing one another," he stressed. In turn Viktor Stepanovich voiced the opinion that Russian and U.S. politicians must make every effort to ensure that "the two countries' specialists can attain as much mutual understanding as possible in implementing joint space projects."

Presumably, their trip to Houston and Cape Canaveral and close acquaintance with U.S. achievements in the field of power generation and space will help the visitors from Moscow have a better understanding of the potential and prospects for our relations with the United States in these spheres. This will also be discussed today at the first session of the intergovernmental commission specially set up to coordinate business ties between space and power generation firms and companies.

The Russian premier's arrival in the United States did not go unnoticed by the local press or, most importantly, by business circles. Press and TV reports mention with particular frequency Viktor Chernomyrdin's speech at his meeting with representatives of the oil and gas industry in Houston. Here, as we have already reported, Viktor Chernomyrdin spoke of his government's actions to shape market relations within the economy and in power generation and to provide guarantees for foreign investors. The press commented on what the premier said about the three main areas for enlisting U.S. capital—in restoring and repairing oil wells standing idle, increasing oil extraction from the fields in operation, and opening up new areas. And there are plenty of those. Experts estimate that there could be at least 400 oil fields with potential for exploration in the period 1995-2000.

This joint work has already been started. Two U.S. companies—Marathon and McDermott—in conjunction with Mitsui, Mitsubishi, and Royal Dutch Shell have set up a consortium which is ready to start exploring two oil fields on the Sakhalin shelf. The implementation of this project will require around $10 billion during the first phase alone. But a considerable return is expected. The energy supply problem in Sakhalin and a number of regions of the Far East will be "eliminated." The development of the social infrastructure will be given a mighty boost.

Meets Clinton

LD0209200393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1920 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Washington September 2 TASS—Visiting Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on Thursday [2 September].

In a short news conference before the talks, Chernomyrdin said he would inform the U.S. leader about the results of the first meeting of the U.S.-Russian intergovernmental Commission for Cooperation in Power Engineering and Space.

Asked when the United States may possibly remove all barriers hampering bilateral trade between the two countries, Clinton expressed the hope that it may happen in the near future.

Earlier in the day Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice President Al Gore signed a package of bilateral agreements on cooperation in space and power engineering. The two sides also signed a memorandum on understanding between the governments of the Russian Federation and the United States concerning exports of rocket technologies and equipment, as well as an inter-governmental agreement on commercial satellite launches.

The former obliges Russia and the United States to prevent proliferation of rocket equipment and technologies which could be used for manufacturing or purchasing rocket systems to deliver weapons of mass destruction. The latter grants Russia access to the world market for commercial satellite launches which will help boost economic reform in the country.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Chernomyrdin said that his five- day visit to America has proven that "in the

changing world versatile economic cooperation comes to the fore in Russian-American relations."

To Shorten Visit

PM0209153993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Sep 93 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report: "Visit Will Be Shorter Than Planned"]

[Text] Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to the United States will end earlier than scheduled. This is because the head of Russia's Government has to be present at the 3 September meeting between the presidents of the Russian federation and Ukraine in the Crimea.

Nonetheless, the main events planned for the visit have materialized: On 31 August Viktor Chernomyrdin visited Florida, where he was briefed on the U.S. space program and the system for ensuring safety at U.S. nuclear power stations. On 1 and 2 September he took part in the work of the Russian-U.S. Intergovernmental Commission on Cooperatioon in the Spheres of Power Engineering and Space—spheres where our countries can act as equal partners), and had meetings with representatives of the U.S. aerospace industry and oil processing complex.

'Substantial' Results Sought

PM0209123793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Sep 93 p 3

[Correspondent Vladislav Drobkov report: "No Sensations To Date"]

[Text] Washington, 1 Sep—After the brief but packed tour of the United States which began Chernomyrdin's visit to the country 29 August the Russian prime minister has arrived in Washington.

His conversations with U.S. Vice President Al Gore and the sessions of the Russian-American Interparliamentary Commission began 1 September.

At a briefing held just before the commission session "high-ranking representatives of the Administration" expressed the hope that this first essay will set a successful example in providing specific help in establishing really extensive partnership relations between the United States and Russia.

Responding to your PRAVDA correspondent's question about the various laws, restrictions, and bans hindering such collaboration which remain in force, "Administration representatives" gave an assurance that the White House "has treated very seriously the wish expressed by President Yeltsin in Vancouver" that such barriers of the Cold War era be removed. They reported that a special list of several dozen such documents had been prepared on President Clinton's initiative and submitted to Congress. We hope, they stated, that many of them will be revised or repealed by the legislators as early as this fall.

I would like to believe such splendid forecasts will come to pass, although experience shows that American congressmen are very slow in repealing their own shortsighted decisions or outdated restrictions; moreover, they are mostly prompted not by inertia or malevolence but by hard-headed calculation: Why create more favorable conditions for a potential competitor if the state of your own economic affairs is far from brilliant?

It seems that the results of the Russian prime minister's U.S. visit could nevertheless be quite substantial. A major agreement on cooperation between the two countries' companies in the utilization of Russian natural gas has already been signed during the visit, and it is expected that a number of other important documents will also be signed.

There may even be, we have learned, some surprises in store in the area of cooperation in space exploration. Everything depends on the effectiveness of the work carried out today and tomorrow by the Russian and American delegations, headed respectively by Viktor Chernomyrdin and Al Gore.

Commission Concludes No Americans 'Forcibly Detained'

LD0209144593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1206 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Staroselsky]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—No American citizens are being forcibly detained in Russia at present. This conclusion has been drawn by the co-chairmen of the joint Russo-American commission to establish the fate of American citizens missing during and after the Second World War. Co-chairmen of the commission, former U.S. ambassador to the USSR Malcolm Toon and General Dmitriy Volkogonov, speaking at a news conference on the results of the sixth plenary meeting of the commission, expressed satisfaction with the work done and noted that this cooperation reflects new atmosphere in relations between the two great powers.

The commission formed on Boris Yeltsin's proposal in March 1992 noted there is no evidence that American citizens taken prisoner during the wars in Korea and Vietnam were taken to the Soviet Union.

Volkogonov said the U.S. side had been supplied with all the information, including data of intelligence services, about U.S. aircraft downed over the territory of the former USSR during the Cold War. Malcolm Toon noted that this is a two-way traffic. The United States supplied Russia with the information on incidents and crashes involving eleven Soviet aircraft off the U.S. coast. Relatives of crew members of these aircraft until

now had no information about their destiny except that they "perished while discharging military duty". The U.S. side actively assists in the search of Soviet and Russian servicemen missing in Afghanistan, Ethiopia and other countries.

The commission's co-chairmen declared for the continuation of joint work and expressed the hope that the information exchange will make it possible to find out what happened to many people believed missing.

U.S. Seen Intent on Preserving 'Military Might'

PM0209165193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Sep 93 p 3

[Manki Ponomarev article: "Bill Clinton Approves the Pentagon's Proposals"]

[Text] In recent years there has been a debate in the United States over U.S. military policy in the postconfrontational period. It became particularly intensive with the accession to power of Bill Clinton's administration. Proposals were put forward by General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, other Pentagon spokesmen, politicians of various trends, and many nongovernmental organizations. A special committee was set up in the Defense Department to review military policy and, after analyzing various options, it submitted its recommendations to the secretary (their essence was set forth in the article "Defeat, Control, Conquer," published in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 14 August).

As far as can be judged, precisely those recommendations were made the basis of the new national program of military building drawn up in the Pentagon. This week Defense Secretary Les Aspin familiarized the head of the White House with it. The program enshrines the idea of the need to reorganize the U.S. armed forces with due regard for the new threats to national security that have come to the forefront with the breakup of the Soviet Union. The "aggressive aspirations of regional powers" like Iran and Iraq, the "danger of defeat for the democratic reforms in the former USSR," and the economic slump in the United States itself are named among these threats. The linchpin of the program is the idea of reducing the armed forces while preserving the traditional doctrine of the "forward basing" of U.S. troops in various parts of the globe.

Not all the details of the new Pentagon plan have yet been made public. But some things have already percolated through to the pages of the U.S. press. In particular, the previous reports that it will take $20 billion more to implement it than President Clinton has promised to allocate for the upcoming five years are confirmed. It is planned to keep 12 aircraft carriers in commission and to bring the strength of the Marine Corps up to 174,000 men. It is proposed to reduce the number of full-fledged Army divisions from 14 to 10, and air wings from 28 to 20.

The military building program provides for the abandonment of some costly projects that have caused arguments—for example, the creation of a new multirole fighter aircraft and an intermediate-range bomber. At the same time it is proposed to continue building the F-22 fighter (using "stealth" technology) and more sophisticated modifications of the F-18A attack aircraft for the Navy.

We will be able to familiarize ourselves more fully with the provisions of the new U.S. national program of military building once it is published. But it is already possible to say today that, despite the major changes in the international arena and the serious economic difficulties being experienced by the United States, Washington has decided to preserve its military might and its readiness to use it in various parts of the world.

According to recent reports, U.S. President Bill Clinton has approved the new national military building program drawn up by the Pentagon.

PVO Commander Interviewed on U.S. Patrols

PM0209155393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Sep 93 p 2

[Interview with Lieutenant General Albert Smyshnikov, commander of an Air Defense Forces army, by Valeriy Usoltsev; place and date not given: "Orions on the Border"]

[Text] I have often visited PVO [Air Defense Forces] "sites." After all, they mark Russia's invisible air border, even though missile garrisons may be located tens or even hundreds of kilometers away from the tricolor posts that separate us from neighboring states. And, during my stays with PVO missile troops or at radiotechnical subunits, it is rare for the quiet of the surrounding hills not be broken by the shrill alarm of sirens going off.

Now that the Cold War is over, it is stranger than ever to be hearing reports such as the following: "A high-altitude U-2 reconnaissance aircraft has taken off from a U.S. base on Hokkaido. It is headed for our border." Or: "A U.S. Orion patrol aircraft has sharply changed course and is now skirting our state border."

Does this mean that nothing is changing on the border? I put this and other questions to Lieutenant General Albert Pavlovich Smyshnikov, commander of a PVO army.

[Smyshnikov] Fortunately, this year there have not yet been any violations of our state's airspace in the Far East. But you are right—reconnaissance flights along the Russian border are continuing. They are less intensive than in years past, but you will agree that almost 2,500 flights since January 1993 is a large figure. And more than 300 of the aircraft flying near the border have been pure intelligence-gatherers, including AWACS-type long-range early-warning and tracking aircraft.

They spend many hours airborne. During this period our radiotechnical systems can record up to 30 instances of foreign aircraft entering the 50-km border zone...

[Usoltsev] And you do not react in any way?

[Smyshnikov] Such operations by our neighbors naturally force us to respond. After all, we do not know what a foreign crew might do the next minute or what they are targeting when they fly right up to the Russian border. That is why surface-to-air missile battalions have been placed on combat alert more than 100 times, and standby pairs and flights of fighter-interceptors have been scrambled more than 1,600 times. This not only causes nervous tension for the men but also incurs huge—I repeat, huge—material expenditure which could be used for quite different purposes.

[Usoltsev] The Russian Federation borders several states in the Far East. Which of our neighbors own the aircraft and helicopters patrolling our borders?

[Smyshnikov] As a rule—and this is 100-percent true of reconnaissance aircraft—they carry U.S. markings on their wings and fuselages. And they fly from military bases in Japan or Alaska.

Even small civil aircraft are starting to be quite disdainful of our state border. We were recently forced to scramble two fighter-interceptors, which detected a small private aircraft flying from South Korea to the United States via Vladivostok and escorted it down. It transpired that the civil pilots had apparently forgotten to inform us that the aircraft's previously filed flight plan had been postponed for a day and would follow a different air corridor. Yet filing such information is a basic requirement for international flights.

[Usoltsev] What, in your view, is the explanation for all this? People used to respect us, our border, and its sovereignty. Why has the situation changed now that the "enemy imagine" has disa[illegible]d? Doesn't the answer lie in our weakness and the [illegible]lties which the country and the Armed Forces are [illegible]encing?

[Smyshnikov] As you know, under the government plan, PVO troops in the Far East are being cut back. And, to be frank, this will not improve the reliability of the defense of Russia's air border in our region. This is something that was admitted at a Vladivostok conference by Colonel General Georgiy Grigoryevich Kondratyev, Russian Federation deputy defense minister, who had come to inspect us. I am no longer talking about the large shortfall of NCO's and draftees. We had pinned our hopes on contract servicemen. Manpower acquisition on a contract basis here has been suspended by an order from "on high"—presumably for financial reasons. But nobody is relieving us of our combat missions. So the people left at the "sites" will have to turn themselves inside out and pull out all the stops physically and mentally in their work every day—to the limit of their abilities. [Smyshnikov ends]

Our Correspondent's Postscript

Lt. Gen. Albert Smyshnikov's subordinates do indeed deserve the greatest praise, but the situation among the troops is alarming because there are problems in PVO subunits which need urgent resolution. One of them is to pay NCO's and officers on time. At the time I was talking with the commander more than 90 percent of the PVO army had received no pay for the last month, and 12 percent of the permanent staff had received no pay for two months. It was the lack of money that forced pilots' wives at one garrison to stage a runway demonstration.

Incidentally, this situation is not unique to this regiment. So it is hard to bring one's self to criticize the officers and warrant officers. After all, in most of their families they are the only breadwinners, because their wives simply have no job opportunities open to them. And can a man do his combat alert duty calmly if there is not enough food on the table at home?

Another problem that cannot fail to concern the permanent staff of PVO units is where to move their families from the surface-to-air missile and radiotechnical "sites" that are being cut back. At their new posting there will not be any separate apartments or even any housing for them. Nor will there be any prospect of any in the immediate future. Moreover, some officers and NCO's from the "sites" may find themselves temporarily surplus to requirements, without even a firm posting.

Will officers and NCO's have to go on much longer toiling away at their own jobs and also doing the jobs of...three or even four guys who are happily trading away at their stalls in civilian life or engaging in racketeering rather than doing their military service? Questions, questions... But if they are left unanswered, the saintly patience of PVO servicemen may run out. One would hope that this will not happen and that the problems of subunits' combat alert duty will be solved in the near future. We hope that Russian citizens will continue to enjoy peaceful skies and command other states' respect for the pride of the nation—its flag and state border.

Yeltsin Departs for Ukraine; Seeks Nuclear Agreement

LD0309090893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 3 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Our report on Boris Yeltsin's departure by air for the Crimea is ready and here it is:

[Unidentified speaker] The Sevastopol issue will be the most difficult question to be tackled during the coming meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, journalists were told by Russian President Boris Yeltsin before his departure. And this is his reply to a question about whether he is worried that the results of the talks on Sevastopol will cause more tension between the president and parliament:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Maybe we will reach an agreement with Kravchuk and the parliament, too, right? [end recording]

The president said that bilateral relations, including economic relations, will also be discussed at the meeting between the two state leaders. Apart from this, the president will discuss questions connected with the Black Sea Fleet and the strategic nuclear forces.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] We cannot, nevertheless, allow Ukraine to be a nuclear power. That is why we wish to reach a final agreement on removing, destroying, and eliminating the missiles, the strategic nuclear weapons. These are the three main areas that will be discussed today. [end recording]

Claims Agreements Can 'Suit Parliament'

LD0309072893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0719 GMT 3 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—A Russian-Ukrainian summit in the Crimea will focus on problems of bilateral relations, the Black Sea Fleet, and nuclear weapons, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told reporters on Friday [3 September] before leaving Moscow for the Crimea to meet his Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kravchuk.

Replying to a querry of ITAR-TASS, Yeltsin said: "We can not allow Ukraine to be a nuclear power".

Touching upon a possible response of the Russian parliament to the results of the summit, the president said that "there can be such agreements with Leonid Kravchuk which will suit parliament".

Summit Agenda Outlined

LD0309075993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0617 GMT 3 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—A broad spectrum of matters aimed at deepening bilateral cooperation are on the agenda of a working meeting between Russian and Ukrainian presidents—Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk—in the Crimea on Friday [3 September].

The Russian delegation will include Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who is expected to arrive at the meeting straight from Washington where he stayed on an official visit, as well as the ministers of foreign affairs and defence.

The forthcoming summit talks will deal with problems connected with the Black Sea Fleet, nuclear arms and economic cooperation between the two countries, delegation member Vladimir Mashchits, chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation with CIS countries, told ITAR-TASS.

Speaking about Ukraine's default of payments for the supply of energy resources, Mashchits pointed out that the Russian side regards the problem with understanding and "does not shut off the taps pending the summit".

Yuriy Dubinin, leader of the Russian state delegation for talks with Ukraine, is of the opinion that "there are now all conditions for substantial expansion of bilateral cooperation". "We go to the meeting in the Crimea with the kindest intentions and are prepared to regulate the matters that remain outstanding. Between Russia and Ukraine, there are no problems that we would not be able to resolve," Dubinin told ITAR-TASS.

Problems in Gas Supplies to Belarus, Ukraine Noted

LD0309080693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1110 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Belyayev]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The market conflict between Belarusian gas consumers and their supplier, the Russian joint stock company Gazprom seems to be dying down. In response to a sharp cut in the supply of fuel to Belarus resulting from nonpayment, the republic's government has found the funds to repay part of the debt and has granted broader powers to Belarusian gas officials, requiring them to make firm use of sanctions against industrial enterprises that infringe agreements to pay for the fuel received.

Belarus—its economy and population—consumes about 16,000 million cubic meters of natural gas a year. Until recently, many of the republic's enterprises used the "best and cheapest" fuel virtually free of charge. By mid-August their debts reached 100 billion rubles.

At the end of August and after repeated reminders of the need to pay for the commodity received, Gazprom cut the daily fuel supply from 32 million cubic meters to 12 million. Those 12 million cubic meters of gas were intended for public amenities and for the population.

Belarus's highest economic administration bodies understood the Gazprom decision in a "market-minded" way. To all economic managers—both retailers and customers—it is perfectly clear that the gas trade and the use of gas must be normalized at some time. Otherwise a sector of Russian industry that is still viable will collapse, and everyone will be worse off. Officials in Minsk not only began to look for money to pay off the debt, but also presented Gazprom with a calendar repayment schedule. The document was endorsed by Mikhail Myasnikovich, first deputy chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers. In accordance with the schedule, Belarussian gas consumers have pledged to pay the last instalment in October. Current supplies of fuel will henceforth be paid for regularly, according to the contract.

The document appeared on 27 August. On the same day, the instruction went out to increase the daily supplies of gas in the direction of Minsk to 27 million cubic meters. That is still not the full amount of the heat and energy consumed by Belarus, but it is an opportunity to include all the industrial burners of enterprises that have switched to market relations with their partners.

Meanwhile, Gazprom's central production and distribution unit has discovered that the gas pressure in the export pipeline at the control facility near Uzhgorod [Ukraine] has fallen by five atmospheres. This is a serious violation of the contract agreement with foreign partners that accept Russian fuel for onward transportation to Western Europe. If the pressure has fallen, then gas has been pumped out of the export pipeline on Ukrainian territory. This has happened there before.

Ukraine is a major consumer of Russian gas. It was usually supplied with 224 million cubic meters of gas every 24 hours. Workers in the northern expanses of Tyumen Oblast and in the Orenburg area are conscientiously catering for the neighboring republic's need for heat and energy, but receive nothing in return—not even their wages. Ukraine owes about 800 billion rubles for gas. As a result, the Russian gas complex has forfeited the opportunity to develop production, build housing, and carry out social programs.

Bearing in mind the Ukrainian consumers' huge and constantly growing indebtedness, Gazprom has decided to cut daily deliveries of fuel to the republic to 50 million cubic meters. It is to please their nonpaying compatriots that Ukrainian gas officials have touched the contents of the export pipelines.

Last Tuesday, Vyacheslav Sheremet, acting chairman of the Gazprom board, sent yet another telegram to Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma. As usual in such cases, it ends with: "I request you to intervene." Will this intervention take place? And will the prime minister want to act according to the rules of the civilized market?

Isakov on Future Negotiations With Lithuania

LD0209130093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Viktor Isakov, the head of the Russian state delegation for negotiations with Lithuania, considers that the Lithuanian-Russian negotiations may continue in September or October, after a meeting of the presidents of both countries that is to take place in the middle of September.

This was stated by the Russian diplomat in an interview published today in the newspaper RESPUBLIKA. Viktor Isakov said that it was essential at the upcoming talks to sign or only initial an agreement on military transit from Germany to Russia through the territory of Lithuania. According to him, the Russian side is ready to sign this agreement. Secondly, in his view, it is essential to continue talks on the social protection of military pensioners.

Isakov stated that on other issues, such as Lithuania's relations with Kaliningrad Oblast, transit, and the state border, Lithuania was so far not ready to conduct negotiations. The head of the Russian delegation also blamed Lithuania for the fact of the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Lithuania had not been juridically registered.

Speaking of damages inflicted to Lithuania, Isakov noted that the Russian side, too, may make claims and demand compensation for USSR military property left behind.

Gromov, UN Official Discuss Troop Withdrawal From Baltics

PM0209165793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Sep 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Pelts report from the "Events and Commentaries" roundup: "The Withdrawal of Russian Troops From Baltic Countries Will Take Place Within Civilized Bounds, Colonel General Boris Gromov, Russia's Deputy Minister of Defense, States During Meeting With UN Secretary General's Special Representative"]

[Text] Mr. Tommy Koh, roving ambassador and special representative of the UN secretary general, has arrived in Moscow on a highly important mission. He is tasked with preparing materials for a report to the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly on the subject of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic countries. In this connection he expressed the desire to investigate the Russian Defense Ministry stance personally. In the afternoon of 30 August the roving ambassador was welcomed by General Colonel Boris Gromov, Russian deputy minister of defense.

A businesslike and constructive conversation took place. Boris Gromov stressed that Russia has always upheld the agreements reached with these countries in respect of the deadlines, terms, and procedure for withdrawing troops. In a number of cases, however, for purely conjunctural considerations in the interests of immediate political advantage, the leaders of the Baltic countries are putting forward new terms for the troop withdrawals. Colonel General Boris Gromov listed the most important of these. They concern above all compensation for the damage allegedly inflicted by what were then the USSR's troops.

Mutual understanding was achieved on all questions of interest to Mr Koh. He thanked Colonel General Boris Gromov for holding such detailed talks and he expressed the hope that Russia's firm and consistent stance will be met with understanding by the leaders of the Baltic countries.

Moldovan Ambassador Comments on Snegur, Yeltsin Meeting

LD0309082293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Excerpts] A meeting was held in Moscow between Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur, the presidents of Russia and Moldova. Here is Anatol Taran, ambassador of the

Republic of Moldova to the Russian Federation, assessing the results of the meeting.

[Taran] [passage omitted] Also discussed within the framework of this meeting were the prospects for the further development of the political situation in Moldova in connection with the possibility of Moldova joining the Economic Union, the documents for which are now being drawn up both in Moscow, and in other CIS capitals. President Snegur emphasized that Moldova is ready to actively continue work to create an Economic Union within the Commonwealth of Independent States. This circumstance indicates that in spite of the fact that the Moldovan Parliament has not ratified the treaty on Moldova's entry into the CIS, this question is not closed. It remains topical and the parliament will return to discussion of this issue. In this way Moldova remains de facto within the framework of the Commonwealth; at least concerning all those questions that are connected with economic relations. That is very important for Moldova.

Delegation for CIS Meeting Announced

LD0309093493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0636 GMT 3 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federation Council of Ministers has announced the composition of the Russian delegation to take part in the session of the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS, which is to be held in Moscow 6-7 September. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has been appointed leader of the delegation. The delegation also includes Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin; Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko; Vladimir Mashchits, chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation with the Commonwealth Member States; Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the State Committee for Emergency Situations; and Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Further on Kozyrev Visit to Switzerland, Conference Submits Initiative to Conference

PM0209151993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 2 Sep 93 p 1

[Pavel Vasilyev report: "War Victims Expect International Protection"]

[Text] Yesterday ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI published Boris Yeltsin's statement on military conflicts. The ideas contained in that document have been given specific embodiment in new Russian initiatives presented to the International Conference on the Protection of War Victims in Geneva.

"It is difficult to name a more acute and urgent issue in international life than the one which made the calling of this conference necessary," Moscow's representative said on mounting the rostrum of the Geneva forum. Andrey Kozyrev reminded the assembly that Russia was there at the inception of modern humanitarian law, the basic principles of which were first formulated 125 years ago in the St. Petersburg Declaration. Today, he noted, the world community is dealing with a new type of armed conflict, in which hostilities are often conducted not by regular armies but by paramilitary formations. Mercenaries and sometimes criminal elements, too, for whom violence is a way of life and source of profit, are widely employed. The Russian minister described the acts of brutality and looting committed in such conflicts as the result of the deliberate implementation of doctrines imbued with an ethos of aggressive nationalism and xenophobia.

The head of the Russian delegation stressed that, faced with the need to resist aggressive nationalism and extend a helping hand to its victims, Russia regards peacemaking as a central thrust in its foreign policy. And substantial results have already been achieved here: Bloodshed has been halted in such trouble pots as the Dniester region, South Ossetia, and Abkhazia. The transition to a political settlement comes next. The main task now is to strengthen and guarantee principles of humanitarian law and ensure that they become mandatory not just for states but for the sides embroiled in civil wars and ethnic conflicts.

Andrey Kozyrev underpinned his words with a list of specific steps proposed to the world community by Moscow. The nine points in this document, which has acquired the title "The Russian Humanitarian Initiative," contains a comprehensive program for the development of an international system of protection for the victims of armed conflicts. The chief ones are as follows:

applying the general principles of humanitarian law not just to states but to all sides in conflict;

extending the list of civilian sites on which an attack is regarded as a war crime. In addition to nuclear power stations and dams, it is intended that the list include undefended towns and settlements, humanitarian aid corridors, places where there is a large concentration of refugees, and food stocks;

protecting religious and cultural objects of value and establishing under UNESCO auspices the institution of general commissioners for cultural assets;

extending international protection to peacemaking forces and humanitarian aid convoys;

ensuring that people who violate the norms of humanitarian law are punished without fail, establishing in The Hague an international tribunal for war crimes in Yugoslavia, and drawing up an inventory [svod] of war crimes and penalties.

In Andrey Kozyrev's opinion, the UN General Assembly's proclamation of 1994 as the Year of Protection for Victims of Armed Conflicts should serve as a good

means for mobilizing the world public to resist the escalation of violence and barbarity.

Signs Declaration on Cooperation

LD0209181593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1738 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Berne September 2 TASS—"Russia is interested to see a reliable friend and partner in the Swiss confederation. We have common values—democracy, the market-oriented economy and the interest in securing stability in Europe," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is currently on a visit here, said on Thursday [2 September] at a ceremony of signing Russo-Swiss documents, including a declaration of intentions on cooperation, and agreements on air service and an exchange of practical students. The documents were signed by the Russian foreign minister and head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Flavio Kotti.

The declaration determines the major directions of interaction—the economy, political institutions, culture, youth exchanges, science, education, finances and environment. "The two sides will promote economic cooperation in all fields of mutual interest so as to support and strengthen the process of transition of the Russian economy to the system based on market principles and standards," the document says.

In reply to journalists' questions, Flavio Kotti noted that Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Switzerland was very important for the deepening of bilateral cooperation. The head of Swiss diplomacy stressed his country's interest in stabilization of the present democratic process in Russia.

Comments on CSCE, Bosnia

LD0209193893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1921 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Berne September 2 TASS—An official visit of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Switzerland ended on Thursday [2 September] by signing a declaration of intentions on cooperation, and agreements on air service and an exchange of practical students. This was the first official visit at such a high political level over entire history of bilateral relations.

In the course of meetings of the head of Russian diplomacy with Swiss President Adolf Ogi and head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Flavio Kotti, both sides discussed ways of strengthening ties between the two countries in economic, political, scientific and cultural fields. In a joint declaration they stress the desire of the sides to make a constructive contribution in the building of new Europe based on principles of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and other documents related to the European process.

The Swiss side spoke in support of Russian reforms and expressed the intention to promote the transition of the Russian Federation to a market economy.

Andrey Kozyrev said that Russia would like Switzerland to be its "reliable friend and partner." At a news conference the head of the Russian foreign office stressed that now "Russia is returning to its natural interests in Europe. Certainly our vital interest is to have reliable partners in the center of the European continent".

Stressing that today "European institutions are in the process of transformation", Andrey Kozyrev said that it could be a "strategic miscalculation not to take into account the possibilities of interaction with neutral Switzerland and the fact that this country is a diplomatic superpower.

Russian foreign minister confirmed Russia's readiness to participate in peacemaking missions at the request of conflicting sides and, naturally, in close interaction with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Russia is prepared to develop cooperation with NATO, as well as to take part in discussions on how to transform this military bloc in new conditions.

Touching on Russia's position as regards the Bosnian settlement, Andrey Kozyrev expressed concern about a setback in the Geneva negotiation process. The international community, the Russian foreign minister believes, should induce the conflicting sides to sit at the negotiating table. The confronting sides should not count on the interference by force from outside, but look for the ways to a compromise and learn to live together.

Polish Stance on Katyn Called 'Unexpected, Violent'

LD0209210493 Warsaw PAP in English 2046 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 2—Russian President's advisor for political affairs Sergey Stankevich described the statement of Polish Justice Minister Jan Piatkowski, who said on Thursday that there would be "a sovereign Polish investigation" into the Katyn massacre, as "an unexpected, violent, and unjustified stiffening of position by the Polish side."

Officials View Joint Ventures With Czech Republic

LD0209222093 Prague CTK in English 1947 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, Sept 2 (CTK)—At their meeting today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin explained to Russian First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets his views on the possible integration of the industrial complex of eastern European countries, mainly that of the Czech Republic, into the Russian economy.

Soskovets's adviser Yuriy Mikhaylov told CTK that a serious and well-grounded discussion had been held on the establishment of Czech-Russian joint ventures, above all one involving the Czech heavy engineering enterprise Skoda.

It took quite a long time for Yeltsin to discuss this question, which was linked to his short visit to the Czech Republic on August 26, Mikhaylov said.

Soskovets, who is in charge of industrial policy in the Russian Cabinet, is to call a session of a group of ministers and top industrial-sphere officials on Saturday or Monday to discuss the conclusions of today's meeting (between himself and Yeltsin) in detail, Mikhaylov said.

Only afterwards can someting more specific be said, he added. He said he believed that it was optimal for Russia to resume its relations with Skoda. Russian interest is probably due to a recent destructive fire at the Naberezhnye Tchelny-based Kamaz engine-manufacturer, Mikhaylov said. Skoda can undoubtedly help (in the case). It is absolutely realistic and possible to invest there, he added.

Shokhin Describes 'Complicated' Talks With IMF

PM0209162793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Aug 93 Second Edition p 2

[Aleksey Portanskiy report: "Russia Could Still Receive Credits"]

[Text] If the Russian Federation government refuses to carry out a tight financial policy and begins to hand out money "to suit requirements," not a single foreign creditor will take it into his head to grant financial aid to Russia, Government Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Shokhin stressed during a meeting with journalists on 27 August.

The grounds for discussing Russia's relations with international financial organizations was the IMF mission's latest working visit to Moscow. Our talks with the IMF currently concern the granting to Russia of the second half of the so-called system credit worth $1.5 billion (the first half was granted in July) and reserve credits. An agreement with the fund on reserve credits, which in principle we were supposed to conclude by 1 October, is the key condition of the agreement signed in the spring with our main creditors—the Paris Club—on deferring the payments due this year on the former USSR's debts.

Unfortunately, the talks with the IMF are complicated by the serious economic situation in Russia. According to A. Shokhin, the IMF mission could not help voicing concern over the rate of inflation and the state of the budget in Russia.

Nevertheless, chances do remain of obtaining the aforementioned credits from the fund this year. This will require, in particular, reducing inflation and the state budget debt to single figures by the end of the year, as was stated back in the winter. However, the achievement of the indicated target is by no means an end in itself and does not imply the feckless subordination of our internal policy to foreign financial organizations. The crux of the matter is that the present rate of inflation and the size of the budget deficit, which now border on the critical level, could destroy the economy itself and undermine the population's standard of living still more.

Political Issues

Officials, Papers Comment on Suspension of Rutskoy, Shumeyko

Shakhray Defends Suspensions

LD0209194193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Interview with Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray by television correspondent Suntsov; place and date not given; introductory paragraph by program presenter Irina Mishina; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] Representatives of various political forces commented today on the Russian president's decree suspending Vice President Rutskoy and First Vice Premier Shumeyko. Many ask who exactly drew up this document? Some sources mentioned the name of Vice Premier Shakhray, and so our correspondent visited him.

[Suntsov] What can you say about the publications of the president's decree on the suspension of highly placed officials?

[Shakhray] I, just as the majority of television viewers, am simply shocked by the current methods of combating corruption, whereby one highly placed official accuses another no less highly placed official. In this situation all Russian Federation citizens feel literally spat upon. State authority suffers. Both the vice president and the first vice premier are part of the executive power branch that is headed by the Russian president. The president simply must defend the authority of state power without accusing any named political or official figures.

The president has not removed these officials from office, he has suspended them. Incidentally, this presidential right is based on Article 108 of the Law on the President of the Russian Federation, and according to the Constitution, he is entitled to use this right. Apart from that we know that the powers of the vice president are based on instructions from the president, on specific instructions from the president. There are no such instructions to the vice president, as the president noted in his decree.

I am sure that the Supreme Soviet, which is actively proclaiming the struggle against corruption, will in this case be united with the president and will assist any activity directed toward combating this phenomenon.

Apart from this, a decree of this kind should assist the inquiry in investigating all the circumstances calmly and objectively, without any pressure from very highly placed officials. I am sure that all accusations and the facts will be checked, and that the officials in question will eventually return to carrying out their duties.

Lawmakers React to Suspensions

LD0209132093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1245 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—Aleksandr Bir, secretary of the disbanded parliamentary committee on legislation, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Thursday that the presidential decree on the suspension of the vice-president and the first vice-premier from their duties was a normal step in political, ethical and civil respects.

"This is very timely and necessary," he noted. In Bir's opinion, Boris Yeltsin has not made any violations of law in this case, since "he did not give any instructions to the vice-president".

A lawmaker who refused to be identified and who is not Yeltsin's sympathiser put it bluntly: "In principle, if we approach this issue from civic positions, both Aleksandr Rutskoy and Vladimir Shumeyko should have done this on their own for the period of the investigation which is now in progress". But Russian people "do not have civic culture enough for the time being", he added.

"The constitution of our country does not provide for suspension from their duties either of president or vice-president or still constitutional court chairman, in a word, top leaders of the state," Lev Okunkov, director of the Institute of Legislation and Comperative Jurisprudence at the Russian parliament, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

"Otherwise this provision would have been used for political purposes," he stressed.

On issuing the decree on temporary suspension of Aleksandr Rutskoy from his duties, Yeltsin, in Okunkov's opinion, "exceeded the president's powers, who cannot take decisions referred by law to the province of people and the Congress of People's Deputies".

"It is very difficult to appraise this step from the political point of view, but it is illegal from the juridical viewpoint," Okunkov added. According to the director, the Constitution clearly describes the status of vice-president elected by people and substituting president under some circumstances.

"An extended interpretation of the Constitution is inadmissible," he underlined. As for assignments, the president can give them to the vice-president or not.

The decision on the vice-premier was taken in compliance with the Constitution, but an appropriate representation was to be made by the cabinet head, Okunkov continued. But he does not know whether such a representation was made.

Yeltsin Seen 'Provoking' Own 'Impeachment'

MK0209112593 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 2 Sep 93 p 1

[Commentary by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS's political department: "'They Will Put You in Prison—But Then You Must Not Steal.' Variant: Yeltsin Is Anxious for a Congress Session But Will Hardly Get It"]

[Excerpts] Having failed to fulfill one of his promises—to announce the name of a new security minister by the beginning of September—President Yeltsin has brilliantly accomplished another—starting a "fall offensive" after the "August artillery preparation." Yesterday fall began. Boris Yeltsin issued an edict "temporarily" suspending Aleksandr Rutskoy and Vladimir Shumeyko from office. Anatoliy Krasikov, the president's press service chief, explained that this was done because "the uproar over corruption is impeding an objective investigation of charges leveled against these figures."

As for the vice premier, everything is more or less clear here: Vladimir Shumeyko himself asked to be suspended, which he did prior to the presidential edict. The president had the power to dismiss him, although formally Prime Minister Chernomyrdin should have first made a submission.

Things are more complicated with regard to the vice president. [passage omitted]

Although from the layman's viewpoint, all this is perfectly acceptable, from a juridical point of view, the president's edict is hardly impeccable. [passage omitted]

Of course, it would have been much easier for the president had a criminal case been opened against Rutskoy. However, the Moscow prosecutor's office told us that so far this has not happened.

Materials against Rutskoy were handed over personally to Moscow Chief Prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev on 24 August in the afternoon. [passage omitted]

According to confidential sources, investigators at the Moscow prosecutor's office dealing with the Rutskoy case have been spending their nights in the office for several days in a row. Although, in our opinion, this is caused not by the urgency of the case but by the fear of a leak.

What has prompted the president to suspend Rutskoy so rashly, without even waiting until 3 September? [passage omitted]

The only logical explanation that MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS' experts could come up with is this. With this edict Boris Yeltsin is provoking his own impeachment. To initiate it, the deputies will have to call a congress session. Although Khasbulatov is very unwilling to summon it. [passage omitted]

In order to lure the "enemy" out of his den, Yeltsin has "exposed" himself. Now even the cold-blooded Khasbulatov will hardly be able to restrain the hot-tempered deputies. If a congress session is eventually summoned, it is quite likely that it will be the last one. It is useless now trying to predict how this will happen. There are plenty of ways—from games with the Federation Council to banal moral pressure. After all, in December 1991 the Congress of USSR People's Deputies did not want to dissolve itself either.

Dismissals Seen as 'Attack' on Constitution

PM0209113193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Sep 93 pp 1-2

[Viktor Trushkov report: "Yeltsin Opens Artillery Bombardment on Constitution"]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has adopted a decision to remove from office Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Vladimir Shumeyko, ITAR-TASS reported.

The edict signed by the Russian president, which comes into force as soon as it is signed—that is, 1 September this year—explains that this decision was adopted in connection with the damage that has been and is being done to state power as a result of the mutual charges of corruption.

The removal from office is a temporary measure and its duration will depend on the final results of the investigation.

A prominent member of the president's team and one of its current vigorous critics have slyly been lumped together. Not only to tar them with the same brush. In this way the executive is trying to sweeten its latest attack on the Russian Constitution. The point is that the Russian Federation president is empowered to fire members of the government, especially since B. Shumeyko has for long time now failed to perform his direct official duties. But the attempt to remove the vice president in company with him is a blatant element of a coup d'etat.

Let us open the Russian Federation Constitution. Article 121 (7), devoted to the Russian Federation vice president, does not make provision for any procedures for the vice president to be removed from his post. Article 121 (5), which governs the president's rights, does not contain any allusions to his right to discharge the vice president or temporarily remove him from office. The vice president is not merely an official, but an organ of state power legally elected by nationwide ballot. That compels me to mention Article 121 (6) of the Russian Federation Fundamental Law:

"THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CANNOT BE USED TO...TERMINATE THE ACTIVITY OF ANY LEGALLY ELECTED ORGANS OF STATE POWER, OTHERWISE THOSE POWERS ARE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY."

Boris Yeltsin is once again, as he did 20 March 1993, perpetrating an attack on the constitutional system of state power. Legislators and the Constitutional Court will have no other option than to revoke the anticonstitutional edict and... raise the question of B. Yeltsin's ceasing to carry out his presidential powers. Spurred on by his entourage, Boris Yeltsin is wittingly entering into confrontation with the Constitution. Today the people and their elected representatives are required to be exceptionally vigilant in order to stop the antilegal actions and prevent their developing into an anticonstitutional coup blatantly provoked by the Russian Federation president.

Skokov Does Not Want Security Ministry

PM0209141593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Sep 93 p 1

[Telephone interviews with Sergey Stepashin, chairman of parliamentary Security Committee, by Andrey Podkopalov, and Yuriy Skokov by Nikolay Dolgopolov, followed by commentary under the general heading: "Yesterday KOMSOMOLKA Almost Appointed Security Minister"]

[Text] Rumors were flying around Moscow yesterday that Yu. Skokov had been appointed security minister.

Wishing to receive confirmation of this information we telephoned Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the parliamentary Security Committee.

[Podkopalov] Sergey Vadimovich, has this edict actually been signed?

[Stepashin] ...I cannot answer that question now.

[Podkopalov] Has the president had any consultations with you over candidates for the post of security minister?

[Stepashin] Yes, we have discussed this, not with the president, but with members of his apparatus...

[Podkopalov] Which names were mentioned?

[Stepashin] There were many—Golushko, the present first deputy security minister; Shebarshin; Savostyanov, head of the Moscow Security Service; and Skokov... [Stepashin ends]

Evening Telephone Call to Yuriy Skokov

[Dolgopolov] Yuriy Vladimirovich, Moscow is full of rumors. Are you destined to head the Security Ministry?

[Skokov] Well, Nikolay Mikhaylovich, we recently met with you and spent two hours having a frank talk about everything in detail. Thank you for publishing it. Do I really look like a security minister?

[Dolgopolov] I don't know about the readers, but our conversation made an impression on me. In my opinion, you are up to coping with such a difficult burden. Have you not indeed been asked to take up this post?

[Skokov] No, no one has asked me to do so. But, as you are so insistent, let us dream a while and try to imagine the situation. I would not accept the offer. [Skokov ends]

Our Commentary

A strange situation. Especially since presidential circles have to all intents and purposes confirmed Yu. Skokov's appointment as minister.

One might have tried to explain this by saying that, as has happened in the past, the person nominated to or relieved of the post has simply not been informed.

But that is hardly possible in Skokov's case. Since his special stance and desire to play his own political game is well known.

The saga with the appointment of a new security minister is clearly dragging on. Needless to say, it is not that easy to pick a suitable candidate.

What qualities should a ministerial candidate, if not a minister possess? He should be true to the ideals espoused by the president and his team. Second or maybe even first, he should be one of the few people whom the ministry's personnel (not the ordinary personnel) accept as one of their own. Albeit unexpectedly, Ye. Savostyanov meets these two conditions. He is close to the president's team and, after first encountering almost hostile opposition from professional personnel, he managed to win prestige among the pros within a short period. At least, an informed source hinted, "operational personnel [opersostav] would accept him."

Stepashin Viewed as Next Likely Security Minister

MK0209114093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 2 Sep 93 p 1

[Vladimir Kartashkov commentary: "Make Your Bets! MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS Places Its Bet on Stepashin"]

[Text] The president did not keep his promise made at the 19 August press conference. At that time Boris Yeltsin stated that before 1 September he would name his candidate for the post of Russia's security minister.

In the meantime rumors are circulating in Security Ministry corridors and on newspaper pages about the most likely aspirants. The circle of candidates has now narrowed considerably. Whereas Tuesday Yuriy Skokov appeared a real aspirant, yesterday, after his statement to the press that he would reject such a proposition, his candidacy was no longer at issue.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS experts, immediately after Minister Viktor Barannikov's dismissal, singled out the three most probable candidates: Yevgeniy

Savostyanov, Sergey Stepashin, and Aleksandr Starovoytov. All of them are no strangers to the personnel of the Russian Federation Security Ministry. They are loyal to the president's policy and capable of being approved by the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Yevgeniy Savostyanov is renowned for the fact that after being appointed chief of the Security Ministry's Moscow City Directorate from among the bearded democrats, he has managed to gain authority among professionals and prevented their exodus to commercial organizations. Although this candidate has good chances, rumors have been circulating in the Security Ministry for the last two days that the new chief will be Aleksandr Starovoytov, general director of the Federal Agency for Government Communication and Information [FAPSI], who has a certain influence in the Supreme Soviet. In his time, Viktor Barannikov, after the border troops, sought to place FAPSI under the Security Ministry's umbrella but the Supreme Soviet unexpectedly passed a law on FAPSI and Aleksandr Starovoytov became independent. Yesterday, however, FAPSI advised us that their general director is away on vacation and his appointment to the post of security minister had not been discussed with him.

MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS experts tend to believe that in all likelihood, the president's choice will be 41-year-old Lieutenant General Sergey Stepashin, chairman of the parliamentary committee on defense and security. Moreover, there is indirect confirmation of our version. Not so long ago Andrey Nikolayev was appointed commander of the border troops. Given that Pavel Grachev is on friendly relations with Sergey Stepashin, it could be supposed that the latter is preparing cadres in the face of his new appointment. Furthermore, Security Ministry officers as far back as a year ago were calling Viktor Barannikov a temporary minister, hinting that their real chief will be the gray eminence of the Russian security service Sergey Stepashin.

Yavlinskiy Interviewed on Presidential Aspirations

WS0209104193 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 93 p 2

[Interview with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, economic adviser to the governor of Nizhniy Novgorod, attributed to press consortium: "If I Become President"]

[Text] It is hard now to imagine someone other than Boris Yeltsin as Russian president. However, with the possibility of early elections considered ever more frequently, an increasing number of politicians are announcing their intention to run for that post. What do they need this for? What do they have to offer? This and other questions are answered by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, economic adviser to the governor of Nizhniy Novgorod at present and maybe Russian president in the future.

[Press consortium] **Are you really going to propose your candidacy in the next presidential elections?**

[Yavlinskiy] I am sick and tired of giving advice to people who seek it and then ignore it. After the 7th Congress of People's Deputies it became clear that none of the power branches can cope with the problems facing Russia. The reformatory potential of the centrists has considerably flagged. Look at the way reforms have always been implemented. From the times of Ivan the Terrible to those of Gorbachev and Yeltsin, the pattern has remained unchanged: at the top, certain people would make a decision, which was sent down through the executive administration, whether oprichniks [members of the tsar's administrative elite unit] or party organizations. This is not going to work any more. Reforms are not a gift, they are something that people are supposed to do by themselves and for themselves.

[Press consortium] **Have you devised your economic and political program yet?**

[Yavlinskiy] My program depends on the political and economic situation in Russia at election time. However, the most urgent problems can be identified even today. First, the creation of the CIS banking union and the curbing of the uncontrolled ruble drain. Russia itself must have only one Central Bank to dispose of the national currency. The most important issue here is that the government retain control over the situation and plan the level of inflation, even if tentatively. The second package includes constitutional transformations. One must legalize private initiative. Social protection should be implemented not on the state but on the local level.

[Press consortium] **As can be seen by your participation in the Nizhniy Novgorod experiment, you attach special importance to regional policy?**

[Yavlinskiy] Regions currently represent both a threat and a salvation to Russia, the former stemming from the political disintegration caused mainly by the center. What is happening is not decentralization, a well-thought liberation of regions, a delegation of more rights, the elimination of command—this is a chaotic politically-oriented and short-term distribution of rights, privileges, and benefits. Those who visit cabinets in the administration can pry out some funds. No visits—no funds. On the other hand, while participating in political games, the regions increasingly feel that nothing is prohibited, and begin to impose their rules not only in politics but also in the economy. And this is bad during the disintegration process.

Nevertheless, the experience gained in Nizhniy Novgorod testifies to the significant reformatory potential of the hinterland. This is a vast region—isolated in the past, in the depth of Russia—with political stability and an advanced privatization process. As much as 20 percent of the population is employed in the private sector. The whole range of problems are being handled there. They have not been resolved yet, but at least they are identified. In addition, the governor of Nizhniy Novgorod and the City Council chairman understand those problems. The branches of power in this city wage

no feuds, revoking each other's orders. A Coordination Council, including the governor, the chairman, and the government, was created. One can even say that they have gone farther in the their decisions than the leadership of many other regions. That is why the city's economy has rubles and dollars.

[Press consortium] **What parties opposing the present Russian president do you think are particularly strong?**

[Yavlinskiy] In my point of view, at a time when the people have no political choice, factions and parties resemble soccer players sitting in a bus. Where are they going to run and what are they going to do? The process of political crystallization will be initiated during the elections, when they present their political programs.

[Press consortium] **On what social and political structures will you rely then?**

[Yavlinskiy] It seems to me that there is no political class yet on which one can rely. I can see a weak point in this position—people can say that I am relying on everyone once again. Not on everyone, but on the active part of the population for which the country's salvation is a priority.

[Press consortium] **Do you think Russia can get out of the crisis on its own, without foreign help?**

[Yavlinskiy] At this point, there are no structures in Russia that can properly handle aid already received. Russia does not need help, but investments—a strategic cooperation agreement. Our president must announce his reform proposals and ask the West: "Will you help us in this case?" But he should not do someone else's bidding, whoever it may be. Russia should not concern itself as to what the American President thinks.

[Press consortium] **And the last question: What traits should a politician have to remain a person of integrity?**

[Yavlinskiy] I think he has to have an innate sense of what one should and should not do. This cannot be learned from books—either you have it or not. Generally speaking, politics is based on three things: substance, responsibility, and sagaciousness.

Yeltsin Seen as Still Planning Constituent Assembly

PM0209122193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Article by desk editor Viktor Petrovskiy: "There Will Be a Council. Will There Be Love?"]

[Text] The idea of a constituent assembly in an undiluted form, which was current for a while in certain political circles in Moscow and St. Petersburg, withered without blossoming.

Now its substitute—the Federation Council—has fully materialized on the mystic 13th day.

It will be a legitimate organ, the president said, clearly hinting at a link between the Petrozavodsk "summit" conference and and the highly publicized plan to smash parliament this fall. But the decisions adopted in Karelia describe the Federation Council as a consultative body only.

The scheme has certainly not been discarded, however; perhaps merely camouflaged. This can be deduced from the results of Filatov's several rounds of rapid conversations with regional representatives in Moscow. The most important thing was the self-institution decision. Now that is something new.

The statute on the Council's aims circulated among the participants of the Moscow meetings can also be regarded as a step toward a constituent assembly: elaboration of strategic tasks and questions of the country's security, border changes, and even questions connected with the president's resignation!

All this leaves no doubt that the innocent status of consultative body is a trick. The strategic plan is to create a new form of legislative authority—a political lever to eliminate parliament.

Certainly a bold and original plan, but one that lacks even the modicum of realism that is required if it is going to be put into practice, while remaining within the law. Even if the president manages to overcome the stubborn resistance, bordering on the irrational, of the heads of the republics to any plans to place their rights and status on a par with those of the krays and oblasts, and the latter cease to be on the "back row" at sessions of the Council of Heads of Republics (which is where they were at the Petrozavodsk meeting), the regions would still be unlikely to agree to be an obedient instrument in the hands of the executive authority.

As Anatoliy Matrosov, chairman of the Sverdlovsk Oblast regional association of soviets, said in a brief interview for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, the plan of the president and his entourage is pretty transparent: "After Petrozavodsk there was a conference of representatives of soviets in Moscow, and we told Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov that we were aware of this political game and would not be a party to it. Back home in Yekaterinburg, at a session of the inner soviet, we ruled that we would not allow our representatives to legitimize such bodies as a kind of constituent assembly."

'Russian Unity' Defends Parliament

PM0209134593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Andrey Sharapov report: "Pickets Impeded"]

[Text] An open session of the "Russian Unity" opposition parliamentary bloc was held 27 August—as it usually is on a Friday. Mikhail Astafyev summed up the results of the National Salvation Front [NSF] participation in the events near the White House 20-21 August. In his opinion, the Front's main victory was to have

thwarted the picketing of the House of the Soviets by "Democratic Russia" forces. Those who talk openly about their desire to change the constitutional system in fact pose a threat to the legislative organ of power. NSF Cochairman Lieutenant General Titov sharply criticized the contract system that is being brought into the Army. This, as he sees it, is making servicemen the slaves of their superiors. Nor has the tradition of soldiers building generals' dachas disappeared either. There is no great hope that this insidious practice will be stopped as yet—after all, in order to win over the Army, President Yeltsin recently "manufactured" several hundred new generals.

Trial by Jury Reinstated After 75 Years

LD0209133193 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] After 75 years of communist rule in the country, trials by a jury have been reinstated in Russia. The first such trials are to be held in November in the Moscow, Ivanovo, Ryazan, Saratov, and some other regions of Russia. Trials by a jury will consider the graver criminal cases such as murders, assault, and bribes. During such a trial, the 12 persons on a jury should answer three questions: whether a crime had been committed, whether the defendant is guilty or not, and whether the crime was premeditated.

Interior Minister Interviewed on Fight Against Crime

LD0209235193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Report on fight against crime by correspondent Yevgeniy Fateyev; including recorded passages by Interior Minister Viktor Yerin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Rayon and town internal affairs departments are, at present, perhaps the main link in the Interior Ministry system. It is their work on which the results of the fight against crime depend. A decision has been taken at the collegium of the Internal Affairs Ministry to broaden their rights.

[Fateyev] My militia protects me is what a poet once claimed. We would amend the words now to "does not protect me very much" in view of widespread crime. Now however, it is possible that we shall be protected in a far better way. At least we ought to expect this after the meeting of the collegium of the Internal Affairs Ministry, which has decided to radically transform and strengthen its main link—the town, rayon and transport militia departments, where 90 percent of all Interior Ministry personnel work.

[Yerin] These are the people and staff members who are directly fighting crime, and who daily go out to ensure public order and road safety.

[Fateyev] A total of 2,700 town, rayon and Russian transport militia chiefs are in actual fact now to become "big chiefs" and receive the right, without reference to Moscow or other superior authority, to make their own decisions and be responsible for the cadre structure of their subunits, and to take a more flexible approach to problems regarding material and technical provisions, and all other matters on which the maintenance of order and the fight against crime in the regions entrusted to them depend.

Might the criminal world now show some concern over this reorganization and the decision you have adopted?

[Yerin] At present, criminal elements are attempting to rear their heads once more, but I am full of optimism and believe that in areas where internal affairs bodies are receiving complete support, we shall be relatively successful.

Militia General Comments on Crime Surge

PM0209134393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Boris Sopelnyak report: "Militia Guard Asking For Help"]

[Text] The militia guard. That is what criminal investigation officers are called. This service was founded almost 75 years ago to "protect law and order through the secret investigation of crimes, and to combat banditry."

But history was not the subject at the briefing organized yesterday by the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Public Relations Center. Major General of the Militia V.I. Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian MVD Main Criminal Investigation Administration, was self-critical.

Over the past few years Russia has witnessed a surge in the crime rate unprecedented even in the darkest days of its history. I will quote a few figures—they are scary but there is no getting away from them. Every day in this country there are 62 murders, more than 4,500 cases of theft, 500 robberies, and 30 muggings. Even the president has admitted that crime in Russia is of such a scope and nature that it poses a huge threat to the individual and the state. It has become a direct threat to strategic interests and national security, is destroying the economy, interfering in politics, undermining public morals and ethics, and creating a threat to people's lives.

The rising crime wave is being fought, of course, by all MVD services, but by ours above all. Some 41,000 people work in criminal investigation. They have a huge workload. Could we work more effectively? Undoubtedly. But to do so would require a revision of certain norms of the Criminal Code and, of course, judicial practice. Judge for yourselves. Over the past year only one-third of arrested criminals have been convicted. Two-thirds have received fines, conditional discharges, suspended sentences, or corrective work. In other words, punishment has not been inevitable, and this has made the criminal fraternity brazen and confident of its power.

Hence the huge number of repeat offenses, or, as we say, backsliding. Here is an example—a professional burglar who had carried out 22 burglaries received...a two-year suspended sentence.

Being humanitarian is a good thing, of course, but we professionals know that villains only take one argument seriously—tough sentences. When you consider that, according to our forecasts, the number of murders this year will reach 30,000, with, correspondingly, 170,000 robberies, 30,000 muggings, and 800,000 burglaries, lawmakers have to pass tougher laws. As for us, the militia guards, we will make sure that the laws are unconditionally carried out, V.I. Kolesnikov stressed.

Military & Space Issues

Yeltsin Decree Confirms Statute on Military Councils

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[Text] Moscow, 2 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The president of the Russian Federation signed a decree on 1 September which confirms the statute on Military Councils in the armed forces, frontier troops, Interior Ministry forces, and railway troops of the Russian Federation, and government communications troops of the Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information under the Russian president.

According to an announcement from the presidential press service, Military Councils are created by the Russian president and are permanent advisory bodies in the armed forces, border, interior, and railway forces, and commmunications forces. The document stipulates the composition, tasks, and procedures of the working of the Military Councils and the powers of their members.

Yeltsin Seen Wooing Support in Visit to Troops

PM0209152593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Andrey Sharapov report: "Day Before the Edict. Why the Commander in Chief Remembered the Army"]

[Text] Commanders in chief visit the troops when there is a mutiny, an exercise, or a war. Our president's visit to the men of the Taman and Kantemir Divisions and the airborne troops at the end of an August of "softening-up" and ahead of a "decisive" September would only alarm a babe-in-arms, who has still not gotten it into his head that our president and commander in chief is a determined man tormented by villainous parliamentarians, who has long since had no fear of assuming somewhat greater power than he has at present.

Executive leaders should take a friendly look at the military as often as possible. After all the Army, the backbone of the state, is crumbling. In terms of their level of social protection servicemen have been reduced to that of medics, teachers, or even lower. A sense of grievance for the state is growing in their ranks. The president, for instance, may have dropped in at the recent All-Russia Conference on Problems of Social Protection for Servicemen, where plenty of bitter words were said about unheeding reformers. But it is only now that the time is ripe to take a look at the military. Why is that?

The defense minister explained that the president henceforth plans to spend a day a month with the troops since he is not happy with the information about the state of affairs in the Army supplied to him by the ministry and other departments. Formal logic suggests that either the well-known seven sources of the president's information have begun to talk nonsense and contradict one another, or the sources are singing the same tune and the president has himself perceived the falsity of the information and decided to personally ascertain the truth.

"Resolute actions' are planned for September to overcome the crisis of power, for which a "strong" security minister, in particular will be needed. The Army will also evidently have quietly to lend a firm hand. It was not for nothing that the president lavished compliments on it during the meeting.

However, a now familiar situation is arising whereby "they put on the frighteners, but no one is frightened." After all, the time has long gone when policy was based on force and flirtations with the Army could have far-reaching consequences. It is strange that many of our politicians have still not noticed that Russia has another main force—the law.

Grachev, Civilian Personnel Discuss Financial Problems

PM0109162593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Aug 93 pp 1,3

[Yuriy Gladkevich report: "Army and Navy Personnel Living in Poverty. Urgent Measures Needed"]

[Text] Army and Navy personnel are living in poverty and urgent measures are needed. That was the main theme of the meeting between Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Defense Minister, and members of the Executive Council of the Federation of Armed Forces Workers and Employees Unions representing the interests of more than 1 million Army and Navy civilian personnel.

Furthermore, the calamitous situation of workers and employees of units, enterprises, institutions, and organizations belonging to the military department is no secret to anyone. There is the problem of low pay—tens of thousands of Armed Forces workers and employees receive pay that is not only below the level of the average monthly pay in Russia but is not even sufficient to pay for the representative basket of consumer goods. There are a great many other problems—from the enforced idle times of military enterprises to the use of the residual principle in the distribution of housing which some

commanders and chiefs are guided by in their attitude toward civilian personnel—which are having a serious effect on the level of social protection enjoyed by army and navy workers and employees...

The Russian Defense Minister, of course, is well informed about all these things. It is no coincidence that in advance of the dialogue with the Executive Committee's members he listed virtually all the problems that his interlocutors subsequently developed and discussed in concrete terms. He stressed straight away that the Russian Defense Ministry leadership has been working long and hard to resolve the many problems that exist but the economic and financial difficulties, which are becoming increasingly acute in the country with every passing day, have prevented this.

Nevertheless, Army General Pavel Grachev considers that recently some improvement has been made to civilian personnel's social situation. In accordance with the Single Pay Scale introduced by Russian defense minister orders no. 129 and no. 130 it is now possible to increase the first category wage rate by around 50 percent. Rates of pay for educational workers and workers of cultural enlightenment institutions in rural locations have been raised by 25 percent. The scale of the percentage supplement for continuous work has been increased from 25 percent to 40 percent, and this payment is made after 20 years' work, not 25 years as previously. The proportion of the monthly wages fund that may be used to provide workers with material incentives is now larger than before. There have also been considerable improvements in the labor remuneration of the civilian personnel of units, enterprises, organizations, and institutions situated in near-neighbor countries as well as of personnel employed to perform duties in the protection of the constitutional rights of citizens in conditions of a state of emergency and in zones of armed conflicts. There have also been changes with regard to compensation payments connected to rising prices...

The members of the Federation of Trade Unions Executive Committee gave a positive assessment of the contribution by the Russian Defense Ministry—as the employer—to strengthening the social protection of civilian personnel. However, Federation Chairman Spartak Arzhavkin rightly noted that the problem is not so much the lack of laws and other legal acts as the failure to execute them. For example, tens of thousands of Army and Navy workers and employees have received no pay for several months now and the fulfillment of many laws and the Sector Wage Rate Agreement has not been backed up with funding. The status of Russian Armed Forces civilian personnel has still not been defined in law, while the laws in the so-called "military package" that have been adopted this year take into account only the interests of servicemen and members of their families but omit Armed Forces civilian personnel.

The Russian defense minister expressed great concern at the delays in the payment of wages to civilian personnel. Furthermore, he stressed that recently this problem has begun to affect the whole Army. The reason for this is the the large amount owed to the military department by the Russian Federation Finance Ministry. That debt amounts to almost 2 trillion rubles today. The budget approved for the Russian Armed Forces is being implemented with difficulty, there are great delays in the supply of funds, and they are effectively being "eaten away" by inflation before being paid. The many appeals by the Defense Ministry leadership to the government often produce no effect...

This long and trenchant discussion between the Russian Defense Minister and the members of the Federation of Russian Armed Forces Trade Unions Executive Committee could have ended with an exchange of opinions and a statement of facts. That has happened a number of times in the past and at best the complainants were given something as an act of generosity by the department or the government. This time the meeting followed a completely different course. When the discussion turned to the problems that the department itself can resolve, Army Gen. Grachev made decisions there and then. As, for example, on the possibility of using some of the resources received from the sale of Armed Forces surplus equipment and property for the special needs of civilian personnel. The relevant directorates of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry were given a directive to immediately prepare and submit to the Russian president proposals on addenda to the Edict on the Procedure for the Sale of Surplus Army Property and the Use of the Subsequent Revenue. This was also the case when the military trade system was criticized for the fact that its enterprises have been using military transport and other services free of charge but are charging prices that were often far in excess of those found in civilian stores. The defense minister ordered an immediate and large-scale review of military trade and asked for a report to be presented to him within a month on the reasons for this state of affairs and proposals for reducing prices in the military trade system...

As for the problems whose solution does not fall within the remit of the military department, Army Gen P. Grachev proposed that together with the Federation of Trade Unions Executive Committee a request be sent to the Russian president and the premier of the Russian Government on presenting to parliament as a legislative initiative questions on addenda to the laws in the "military package" and on granting the military department preferential credits. At the persistent request of the members of the Federation of Trade Unions Executive Committee urgent measures will also be adopted so that the Russian Government and Finance Ministry clear the financial debt which has built up and has brought the military department to the brink of extinction.

This is indeed right because it is necessary to take a far broader view of the problem of finance for the Russian Armed Forces. It is not just that a vast number of people who ensure the combat readiness and defense potential of the Army and the condition of military science,

hardware, and armaments find themselves in complex conditions. The Russian Armed Forces are now at a crucial stage: Essentially the issue is whether or not Russia will be able to build an Army and Navy equal to its role in the world arena and worthy of our country's glorious combat traditions. Meanwhile, the Army is forced to count every penny and agonize over what it should be spent on—repairing tanks, planes, and ships which have outlived their operational life or paying the wages of people who have been brought to the verge of starvation. Yes, there are quite a few problems in the country today and the budget is cracking under the strain, but this is no reason to perpetrate on a nationwide scale an act which is an obvious folly—depriving the Army and Navy of the means of existence. So far no one has denied the following link: If there is stability in the Army and it is satisfied with its situation, this is a guarantee of the normal development of the country, but if that stability is undermined and actions are taken which intentionally or not lead to the disintegration and decay of the Army, this is a step toward national catastrophe.

High-Ranking Officers Arrested on Corruption Charges

LD0309103093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Russia's General Procuracy is continuing its investigation into criminal cases, instituted on the basis of evidence obtained during checks carried out by the Special Commission on Corruption, which was set up by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. A series of such cases, including some relating to theft and bribery in the Western Group of Forces [WGF], are already close to completion.

A KRIM-PRESS correspondent was informed by the General Procuracy that the preliminary results of the investigation already make it possible to draw the conclusion that systematic corruption, bribery, and theft of military property has been exposed in the WGF. The procuracy's Public Relations Center disclosed that General Karakozov, former head of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's Trade Directorate, General Semin, head of the Fuel and Lubricant Service in the WGF, General Nikolay Sadovnikov, former head of the USSR Defense Ministry's Main Trade Directorate, and a number of other high-ranking officers have been charged with committing crimes in the course of duty.

General Seliverstov, first deputy commander of the 16th Air Army, and (Razochey), a senior logistics officer in the long-range air force, have been arrested for taking bribes.

At the same time, the investigators are encountering serious difficulties with certain other cases. These are holding up the investigation. The main reason for this is the need to carry out thorough audits of the managerial and financial activities of certain organizations. The problem is compounded by the shortage of qualified auditors, and the position taken by the Russian Federation Finance Ministry, which is refusing to assist the procuracy by seconding such specialists.

There are other reasons why the investigation is being held up. Certain public servants are exploiting their official position, ignoring the requirements of the law, failing to respond to summonses to give evidence to the investigator, and refusing to comply with other procedural requirements. Mikhail Poltoranin, who has been charged with exceeding his powers and committing fraud by a public servant, has been refusing to appear at the Prosecutor's Office for a long time. Therefore, it has been decided to compel him to attend. It is incumbent upon the agencies of Russia's Internal Affairs Ministry to carry out this decision.

Vladimir Shumeyko too, is refusing to testify to the investigator. This also obliges the procuracy to use the powers which it has under the law. The General Procuracy believes that the Russian Federation president's decree relating to Vladimir Shumeyko will make it possible to speed up the investigation, and the adoption of a procedural decision on the case.

Further on Moscow Aerospace Show

New Su-30 Demonstrated

LD0109142393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0328 GMT 1 Sep 93

["Radio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] [Announcer] An international aerospace salon was formally opened yesterday at the aerodrome of the "Gromov" Flying Research Institute near Moscow, the largest in Europe. More than 500 Russian and foreign firms are showing their products—aircraft, helicopters, aviation equipment, and space apparatuses—simultaneously on three demonstration areas. Some of the models of Russian aviation technology on show at the salon have nothing comparable abroad and will be demonstrated to viewers for the first time. A particular example of this is the multipurpose aircraft Su-30MK developed at the Sukhoy design bureau.

Mikhail Simonov, the designer-general of the Sukhoy bureau, told our correspondent Arkadiy Ukrainskiy how and why this unique aircraft was made.

[Begin recording] [Simonov] The army needs to have a more compact weapon in terms of the number of pilots, personnel, engineers and technicians, but one that is adequate in combat effectiveness for solving those tasks which can arise quite unexpectedly.

There are many things we cannot foresee—who foresaw, for instance, the conflict on the Afghan border? Up to now we have had the Su-27, purely a fighter, and separately the Su-24 bomber, purely a bomber. The time had come to make a plane that could solve air-to-air and

air-to-surface tasks as a whole. So on the basis of the Su-27 and the Su-24 we developed the Su-30 which can carry out tasks on both surface and air targets.

[Ukrainskiy] So this aircraft has been developed according to the development of the concept of making a quick-reaction (?aircraft)?

[Simonov] But of course, yes. For instance, in this connection let me tell you about its refuelling in flight. The prototype models, during development, carried out test flights to determine the possible range of this aircraft with refuelling in flight. In particular, a test pilot of our bureau, (Sodolnikov), carried out a flight from Moscow to Komsomolsk-on-Amur and back without landing—that's 14,500 km—with only four refuellings in flight. An American F-18 fighter, when it flies from the United States to Australia—approximately the same distance—requires 11 refuellings in flight. So the Su-30 aircraft can actually be flown to any area without landing. [end recording]

[Announcer] The set of tactical and technical characteristics of the Su-30MK aircraft, according to experts, makes it irreplaceable for the support of the mobile forces which in future are to form the basis of the renewed all-Russian Army. Let me remind you that the designer-general of the Sukhoy OKB Mikhail Simonov has been describing the aircraft to you.

Helicopters Exhibited

LD0209133893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1128 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Nikitin]

[Text] Zhukovskiy September 16 TASS—The well known "Kamov" helicopter company is demonstrating its new crafts at the International Aerospace Show - 93, taking place in the Russian town of Zhukovskiy, not far from Moscow.

One of the company's combat helicopters "KA-50" made a sensation at the aerospace show in Farnborough last year. Most foreign specialists pointed out this helicopter was the best in its class, including the famous American helicopter "Apache".

Kamov is demonstrating here not only military, but also civilian helicopters, such as the all-weather multipurpose helicopter KA-32, the multipurpose helicopter of a new generation KA-62 and the light universal multipurpose KA-126.

The "Kamov" joint stock company, the former helicopter scientific and technical complex named after Soviet aircraft designer Kamov, is quite independent now to determine the course of its further development, the Kamov Company President and Designer-General, Sergey Mikheyev, told ITAR-TASS.

"We hope to sell our shares on the Russian stock market", stressed Mikheyev.

Cryogenic Engine Displayed

LD0209135793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—An operating sample of an oxygen-hydrogen engine (KVD1) meant to be installed in cryogenic boost units of space rockets is for the first time displayed at the Moscow aerospace show these days. The transfer to India of this item manufactured by the Isayev design office of chemical machine-building, as well as of the accompanying technology, is envisaged by a 1991 Soviet-Indian contract. The discussion of specifics of the document is one of the problems in the spotlight of attention at the negotiations that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has in the United States.

The actual cause for the discussion of this agreement abroad, mainly in the United States, is that, allegedly, it does not suit safety principles inherent in the international agreement on control over nuclear technologies. Professor Nikolay Leontyev, chief designer and director of the design office of chemical machine-building, told ITAR-TASS on Thursday that "the technology transferred to India and the complete engine cannot be used for military purposes". KVD1 engine is meant to be installed in boost units of GSLV Indian rocket carriers. The latter are used to put space communications apparatuses into high geostationary orbits.

Leontyev said that his design office and related enterprises are ready to continue working under the contract since the government has not yet issued a decree on its suspension or termination. If the contract is dissolved, 40 per cent of staffers of the design office and more than 35 thousand people in the entire complex servicing the Indian programme will lose their jobs. "This will mean wasting high-skilled personnel. It takes five to ten years to train specialists with such skills", Leontyev believes.

Space Defense Official Requests State Support

LD0209152393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—Russia's space industry urgently needs at least 110 billion roubles to overcome the negative processes developing in the industry, Valentin Stepanov, a high-ranking official of the Russian space defence industry, said.

Speaking at a news conference held within the framework of the Moscow aerospace show on Thursday [2 September], Stepanov said that now as never before the industry needs state support. This should include both financing and preservation of traditional ties with former Soviet republics. At the same time, he stressed that the Russian space industry "is the pearl of national science and technology" which could make a substantial contribution to the development of economic reform in Russia.

The aerospace show features a wide variety of exhibits (many of them have never been on display before) which can attract not only state organisations, but also private companies and foreign businesses. Unfortunately, more than half of what the industry can offer now remains undemanded, Stepanov regretted.

However, Vladimir Ivanov, commander of the Russian Space Forces, said that "many proposals and arrangements" have been made at the show. They will be considered by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev after the end of the exhibition, Ivanov said.

Economic Issues

Coal Miners To Stage One-Day 'Warning Strike'

LD0209132493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1205 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—A conference of representatives of 27 Russian coal mining regions was held in Moscow on Thursday. The majority of the participants decided to stage a one-day "warning strike" on Monday [6 September] to dramatize their demand that the government pays the promised wages and subsidies, according to Vitaliy Budko, head of All-Russia Miners Union.

"The miners will then be on full strike footing until the government meets its obligations", he said. Russian coal miners understand that the strike will cause a certain damage to the country, but will resort to it because the government has failed to abide by the terms of its agreement on wages and subsidies, according to Budko.

"Only 40 billion roubles, or 54 per cent of the agreed amount of 74 billion roubles in wages and social benefits due for the month of July have been paid", Budko said. Subsidies in July amounted only to 60 per cent of what had been promised, he added.

Budko said miners have no political demands this time. "Our claimes are not related to politics. They are purely economic", he said.

Government Determines Industrial Policy

MK0209120493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 2 Sep 93 p 3

[Nikolay Podlipskiy report: "Government Discusses Industrial Policy. Economy To Rely On Financial-Industrial Groups"]

[Text] For the first time in Russian history, the government has determined the fundamentals of a national industrial policy. Yesterday, an expanded meeting of the Council for Industrial Policy under the Council of Ministers approved the "Concept and Mechanism for the Implementation of Industrial Policy in 1994 and the Medium Term," drawn up by specialists from the State Committee for Industrial Policy.

The meeting, chaired by Oleg Soskovets, effectively marked a new stage in the activity of this body. The council, which is made up of directors of Russia's largest enterprises, was set up last fall. However, the council has never come to hold a prominent place in drafting the cabinet's economic and industrial policy. This prompted Viktor Chernomyrdin to sign a decree on 23 July replacing Vladimir Shumeyko with Oleg Soskovets as the council's supervisor.

The concept that was discussed yesterday was drawn up by specialists from a specialized government body that has the rank of a ministry—the State Committee for Industrial Policy. Speakers pointed out that sole reliance on demand restriction as the only way to restructure has not paid off at all. In the view of bureaucrats and a sizable part of the directors, market mechanisms of economic transformation should be combined with government regulation. In other words, the objective is to work out an industrial policy concept whose implementation would help reverse the current slump in production, maintain production capacities, and create favorable conditions for restructuring. This objective is expected to be achieved by carrying out an organized reform of the country's industry (with large financial-industrial groups to be given priority treatment), by setting up a government regulation system to manage it, and by improving financial policy.

It is financial policy that will be a factor determining the success or failure of the stated objectives. Igor Shurchkov, chairman of the State Committee for Industrial Policy, noted that industrial policy cannot be regarded separately from financial policy, because the implementation of this policy will require significant budget appropriations. Thus, willingly or unwillingly, the government has been presented with a hard choice: to retain the course toward financial stabilization, which

would impede industrial stabilization, or to recognize support for the manufacturing industry as its priority, thus giving inflation another boost.

Seen against this background, the address by Central Bank Deputy Chairman Vyacheslav Solovov appears fairly typical. He said that the latest meeting of the government credit commission decided to "put aside the May agreements between the Central Bank and the government and to live as Russia deems necessary." Mr. Solovov remarked that the Central Bank was in effect ready to embark on yet another settlement of enterprises' mutual debts by giving them a one-time loan injection.

The most likely choice, however, appears to be a third option: backing away from an austere monetary policy will draw a negative reaction from creditor countries, and pressure by the industrial establishment will force the government at least to demonstrate its intention to pursue a reasonable industrial policy.

Government Yields to Grain Price 'Blackmail'

PM0209154993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Article by Vladimir Grishchenko of the Economic and Political Research Center: "Grain Purchase Prices in Russia Have Almost Reached World Level. It Is a Pity That the Same Cannot Be Said For Earnings"]

[Excerpts] At the end of July, the Russian Government once again raised the purchase price of grain from the new harvest to 60,000 rubles [R] per tonne with the condition that it is indexed at the level of inflation. The cost of grain is now R75,000 per tonne, and if you take compensation for transportation, storage, and other expenses into account, then according to Vice Premier A. Zaveryukha, grain costs the state R90,000 per tonne. In practical terms, given the ruble-dollar rate, we are buying grain on the domestic market at world prices ($100-110 per tonne).

I would recall that the government initially set the price at R45,000, which in June-July of this year exceeded the market price of grain, and, according to the calculations of the Ministry of Agriculture, provided a 277 percent profitability level for grain production.

At the end of June, the Agrarian Union Congress submitted a demand that the state purchase price be raised to R75,000-100,000. I would recall that the agrarian lobby—which is undoubtedly one of the most powerful and influential in our country—has used not only economic blackmail, but also political threats (the ultimatum of 32 chairmen of oblast and kray soviets of people's deputies), and has conducted a substantial campaign in support of the "peasantry stifled by the state's tough financial-credit policy" in the mass media. As a result, like last year, it won, and today we can only talk of the possible consequences of this Pyrrhic victory. [passage omitted]

Today, as has already been said, the cost of a tonne of grain costs the state R90,000. If, as is planned, the state subsidy on grain production introduced in February of this year is rescinded, then in December there will be at least a threefold increase in food prices, including bread—to R200 per kg. Mixed feed will go up by over 400 percent (to R170,000 per tonne), and milk and meat will cost 2-3 times more in December than they do now. Bread has gone up by almost 30 percent during August alone, flour by 20 percent, and vodka has already gone up 150 percent in comparison with July and has practically disappeared from state counters.

According to forecasts, around 120 million tonnes of grain will be gathered this year, which is a very big harvest. I would recall that the nonstate markets for the sale of grain are restricted: For example, a little over 1 million tonnes was sold last year on the Russian market. In other words, in 1993 the agricultural producers will be forced to sell grain to the state: There is simply nothing else to do with it. Today the percentage of grain sold to the state in comparison with what has been threshed is already higher than last year. If the government continues to be subject to blackmail, for which to my mind there are no objective grounds at all, we will simply go begging.

Cost of Food, Goods, Services Continues To Rise

PM0209142393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Aug 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Gennadiy Bortsov, staffer at the State Committee for Statistics, under the "Last Week's Prices" rubric: "Vegetables Attractive in Terms of Vitamins and Price"]

[Text] During the last month of summer, when there is a vigorous trade in fresh vegetables and fruit, prices display a pleasant tendency to fall at city markets. Over the past week (17-24 August) potatoes have fallen by 4.4 percent, with the corresponding declines being 5.7 percent for beets, 7.5 percent for carrots, 9.1 percent for cabbages, 7.3 percent for onions, and 8.1 percent for apples.

Prices at stores and markets for all foodstuffs as a whole increased by 3.9 percent on the week, including rises of 7.3 percent for bread and bakery products, 6.5 percent for flour, 3.7 percent for meat and meat products, and 2 percent for dairy products. Clearly, the overall rise in the cost of food is being propelled by the price of bread products. The average price in Russia of bread made from premium-grade flour was 123 rubles [R], bread made from grade I and grade II flour was selling for R100, rye bread for R71, dried bread rings for R368 a kilo, and crackers for R446 a kilo. There was a 10- to 13-fold differential between the lowest and highest prices of these products in different cities.

Prices rose more for industrial consumer goods than for foodstuffs. Knitwear increased by 4.7 percent, footwear

by 7.2 percent, and electrical goods by 2.3 percent. The price of a color TV reached R248,000, with a refrigerator costing R284,000.

The cost of services to the population increased by 2.4 percent, but the most necessary of them rose by more. Laundry services increased by 5 percent over the week, and dry cleaning services by 9.7 percent. Laundering and ironing bed linen now costs R139 per kilo, dry cleaning a winter overcoat costs R1,730, a fashionable coiffure at a ladies' hairdressers is R1,450, an evening ticket to the movies is R308, and a trip to a notary to prove an inheritance costs R7,705.

Over the past week the gasoline price has increased by just 1.8 percent, but many drivers are having increasingly to cut back on journeys. The price of a liter in Russia has reached R117.30 on average (the lowest price being R40.75 in Norilsk and the highest R200 in Yakutsk).

Provision Made for Late Exchange of Bank Notes

PM0209131393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Aug 93 First Edition p 4

[Announcement by A. Voylukov, deputy chairman of the Central Bank: "Central Bank Reports"]

[Text] As of 1 September 1993 Russian citizens will no longer be able to exchange the rubles dated 1961-1992, which have been withdrawn from circulation, at Russian Federation Savings Bank branches throughout the territory of the Russian Federation

Russian Federation citizens and equivalent individuals with residence permits for its territory who have been unable for reasons beyond their control to carry out the one-shot personal exchange of the money withdrawn from circulation before the end of August 1993 can do so at the nearest Bank of Russia cash center on the basis of an application from the citizen and a certificate from an organization confirming the bona fides of the application.

A total of up to 100,000 rubles [R] will then be exchanged for the citizen on demand at the cash center cash desk. Any amount in excess of R100,000 will be placed by the cash center in a six-month interest-bearing deposit account in the citizen's name at any branch of the Russian Federation Savings Bank.

[Signed] A. Voylukov, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia

Bank Issues New 10-, 20-Ruble Coins

PM0209144793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Central Bank Announcement"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Central Bank has announced the introduction into circulation of 1993-model 10- and 20-ruble Russian Bank coins made of steel covered on both sides with copper and nickel. The edges of the coins are smooth rather than milled. The coins of the aforementioned denominations are manufactured according to the design of 1992-model Russian Bank 10- and 20-ruble coins.

Government Changes Wage Scale

PM0209122993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 31 Aug 93 p 1

["Council of Ministers-Government Decree on Raising the Monthly Wage (Salary) Scale of the First Category of the Uniform Wage Scale for Budget-Assisted Employees," signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, in Moscow on 30 August 1993, No. 870]

[Text] The Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government resolves:

1. To establish from 1 September 1993 a monthly wage (salary) scale of 8,000 rubles for the first category of the Uniform Wage Scale for Budget-Assisted Workers.

2. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances is to determine the procedures and sources for funding expenses connected with the implementation of measures provided for under the present decree.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin
Chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government
[Dated] Moscow, 30 August 1993, No. 870

Media Issues

Yeltsin Assails Amendments to Media Law

LD0209115493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1427 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—The Russian president's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov made the following statement on Thursday [2 September]:

Attacks by the Russian parliament on the freedom of speech have become more frequent in the recent time. Attempts are made to revise the mass media law from anti-democratic positions.

Amendments made by the legislature virtually bring to naught the many years of struggle by the Russian democratic public for the freedom of speech.

One of the most odious and dangerous amendments taken by parliament provides for setting up a watchdog board on the freedom of speech at state radio and television.

In this connection, I am authorised to state the president's principled disagreement with the incorporation of anti-democratic amendments into the mass media law. President

Boris Yeltsin does not intend to send his representatives to the watchdog board on the freedom of speech.

As for journalists, let us hope that, both in their personal capacity of free Russia's citizens and through their Union of Journalists, they will express their position concerning the legislature's attempts to introduce political censorship and will refuse to participate in the watchdog board thrusted upon them by anti-democratic forces.

New RTV-Parliament Chief Profiled

MK0109130993 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 36, 5 Sep 93 (Signed to Press 31 Aug) p A2

[Unattributed report under the "Appointment" rubric: "Viktor Yugin Steps in as Acting Head of RTV-Parliament on Ruslan Khasbulatov's Directive"]

[Text] The new chief of the fledgling television and radio company (it is not one year old yet) is someone not unknown in political circles. Incidentally, he is related both to the presidential team and opponents in the Supreme Soviet. He earned his political capital during the perestroyka years editing the Leningrad youth newspaper SMENA with a strong anti-obkom stance at that time.

Elected to the Russian parliament, Viktor Yugin soon headed the parliamentary committee for the mass media and links with public organizations, parties, and movements. In the wake of the August putsch he became chief of St. Petersburg Television. He was obliged to abandon this post one year ago, thus winding up his career in the ranks of the presidential team. Given the present sharpening of the political struggle it could not but begin in the ranks of the Supreme Soviet chairman's team. Once back in parliament, Yugin easily restored his lost positions. Following the disbandment of the Committee for the Mass Media disliked by Khasbulatov and the National Salvation Front, Yugin took the post of deputy chairman in the new structure.

The period of his rule in St. Petersburg Television is memorable for one episode: a failed attempt to close down Aleksandr Nevzorov's "600 Seconds." People who know Yugin say that this proved to be his undoing as a Yeltsin supporter. Some observers, though, think that the explanation is much simpler. Seeing that the groping was tough in one camp, Yugin reckoned that it would be easier to get on in the opposite one. His reckoning seems to be correct so far.

Poptsov: RTV Will Fight 'Political Whims'

MK0209081493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 36, 5 Sep 93 (Signed to press 31 Aug 93) p 13 B

[Interview with Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the Russian Television and Radio Company, by Marina Podzorova; place and date not given: "Oleg Poptsov: 'RTV Will Not Follow Any Political Whims'"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Poptsov] At present a Supreme Soviet commission is working at Russian television. Judging by how this work began and the bias that accompanies it, the task of this commission is obviously to break the company and destroy its concept. Compromising material is being gathered against me—people are being asked when Poptsov leaves, when he comes, when he receives a personal bonus, and whether he receives gifts.

[Podzorova] Are you saying that they are trying to get rid of you?

[Poptsov] Yes, but I do not regard this as anything dramatic. I can only say this: The Russian Television Company [RTV] will not follow anyone's political whims. For instance, all the talk about moving the "Parliamentary Hour" program is a political whim.

From the very start we were created as an antipode. We were banned during the putsch. [passage omitted]

Everyone thinks that he has a right to administer television. A legislative model is being put in place which envisions censorship, and an atmosphere of pressure against journalists, if not persecution, is being created. Significantly, this applies to both the legislative and the executive branches. [passage omitted]

The information field has its own laws—our authorities refuse to understand this. [passage omitted]

I am not happy with the level of professionalism at RTV, but today we have to expend much effort on upholding our rights. We are being prevented from having normal television. Each spit on the company at a parliamentary session constitutes direct interference in television's activity—this destroys the professional fabric and disrupts the working mechanism. Journalists are human and they cannot remain passive against this constant malice.

[Podzorova] Politicians are also human and....

[Poptsov] Absolutely. Let us be honest: The media do not spare Khasbulatov. Authority is authority, however it must be above vanity. The tragedy of our authorities is that they reason like two guys in the street: He hit me first!

[Podzorova] Did you talk about this with Khasbulatov?

[Poptsov] I did. And not only with him. Khasbulatov as a person piqued by criticism is no longer in the domain of common sense but emotions. [passage omitted]

Trade Union Appeals for Financial Support for Broadcasting

LD0109100593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] The Central Committee of the Communication Workers' Trade Union has backed an appeal by the workforce of state enterprises that provide facilities for broadcasting television and radio programs. The appeal, adopted in Volgograd on 25 August, says it is necessary

to urgently solve the issue of payment for services provided [by these enterprises] in accordance with the volume of broadcasting, and to raise the existing tariffs. The appeal contains a proposal to oblige state TV and radio companies to pay agreed prices for broadcasting specially commissioned and commercial television and radio materials.

Unless the issue of financing is resolved, communication enterprises will be forced to reduce broadcasting time by between one-half and two-thirds, starting from 1 October. The trade union's central committee has asked the president, the Government, and the Supreme Soviet to take specific steps with regard to the appeal in order to prevent a reduction in the volume of broadcasting from 1 October.

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Adopts Decisions on Constitution, Media

LD0309091793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] [Announcer] As we have already reported, a joint session of the chambers of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is being held today. Our correspondent Aleksandr Ruvinskiy reports on the latest news from the White House.

[Ruvinskiy] There is some fairly important news to report from the Supreme Soviet. Firstly, today's session is expected to be the last in this cycle. The deputies will then disperse for their holidays until 28 September.

But there are a number of very serious questions on the agenda. In particular, the Supreme Soviet has adopted a decision, a resolution on measures to guarantee agreed constitutional reform in the Russian Federation. This resolution empowers Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov to hold consultations with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin on ways of agreeing the outlines and time-table for constitutional reform. In other words, this means in practice talks between the Supreme Soviet and the president, in order to establish some kind of common ground. A Supreme Soviet delegation has been formed. The president has also been invited to take part in such consultations. The idea is that they should be held during September.

Another important question is the Russian Federation law on amendments and additions to the mass media law, that was returned by the president for reexamination. This law has been under discussion for quite some time now. It was in connection with this discussion that, as you know, Information Minister Mikhail Fedotov decided to resign. Today, the Supreme Soviet has voted to reject the president's proposals once and for all. Well, the debate revolved, in this instance, around the so-called Monitoring Councils, as they were originally called. They are now being described in the bill as Councils to Ensure Freedom of Speech in State TV and Radio. The president, however, wanted them to be called Boards of Trustees. But the name is not important. The actual role of these councils is what matters. Basically they have been given the job of censoring the mass media in the Russian state. In the president's view, this violates both the Constitution, and Russia's international undertakings. The president is categorically opposed to this and his views were made clear at the session today.

Another important question is under discussion right now. This concerns an appeal by the Supreme Soviet to the Constitutional Court over the president's decree of 1 September. I remind you that this decree suspended the powers of Deputy Prime Minister Shumeyko and Vice President Rutskoy. The Supreme Soviet has already voted, in principle, for a resolution under which an appeal will be lodged with the Constitutional Court. This invites the Constitutional Court to rule on whether this decree is constitutional or not. What's more, by the same resolution, the Supreme Soviet plans to suspend this decree—but only that section of it which relates to Aleksandr Rutskoy. Khasbulatov has just told the deputies that the present debate is not about whether the decree should be suspended or not. The only subject of the debate is the precise wording of the Supreme Soviet resolution. So, the question should in principle be regarded as already decided.

Those are the main questions that the Supreme Soviet is concentrating on today.

Rejects Proposal To Convene Congress

LD0309082093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0734 GMT 3 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian parliament has turned down a proposal to include in the agenda of the current session the question of convening in the near future a meeting of the Congress of People's Deputies. This proposal was made at today's joint session of the chambers of pariament by People's Deputy Gleb Yakunin.

In his opinion, the increasing struggle around the vice president must inevitably be settled by the most profound political crisis. "It cannot be solved within the framework of the Constitutional Court and the existing Constitution, and a confrontation between the various branches of power will increase," the deputy stressed. "Amendments must be urgently made to the Constitution in order to end this struggle," Gleb Yakunin said in support of his proposal.

However, it did not meet with the support of the majority.

Asks Court To Cancel Rutskoy Suspension

AU0309100293 Paris AFP in English 0951 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, Sept 3 (AFP) - The Russian parliament Friday [3 September] called on the Constitutional Court to cancel a presidential order suspending Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

The deputies voted by 141 votes to 10, with two abstentions in favour of referring the matter to the Constitutional Court—a move which automatically suspends application of the order.

'Text' of Yeltsin Message to Parliament on Dismissal Decree

LD0309081493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0711 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 3 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—We transmit the text, issued by the Russian Federation president's press service, of a message sent by Boris Yeltsin to the Russian Supreme Soviet:

"Esteemed people's deputies:

"You are discussing the decree 'On the Temporary Suspension of A.V. Rutskoy and V.F. Shumeyko from the Performance of Their Duties'.

"The decree affects very high-ranking executive officials, and I am sure you understand that its adoption was occasioned by the most serious reasons.

"It is no secret to anyone that the fight against corruption has been used to exacerbate political confrontation in the highest echelons of power. The exchange of noisy mutual accusations, the taking of sides, and striking statements at times convenient for the political struggle have become a present-day reality. It is doing increasing harm to the authority of the state and discredits both the executive and the legislature.

"I am convinced that no contradictions between officials should impede the fight against corruption or create a threat to the state. If that does happen, I regard it as my duty to act in the country's interests.

"Now for the legal aspect of the matter. At least some of the recently published documents provide grounds for temporarily suspending A.V. Rutskoy and V.F. Shumeyko from the performance of their duties, which does not, of course, mean their dismissal or removal from office. These materials are now being studied by the procuracy. It must objectively and impartially investigate every instance that has been adduced. Political pressure or resistance from either side must be excluded. I have no doubt that the truth will then be established.

"The form of decree selected is based on the president's right to rely in his decisions on the totality of the norms and principles of the current constitutional legislation. The decree contains no direct contradictions with the existing constitution and current legislation.

"I am sure that the citizens of Russia and the people's deputies will support the president's efforts to fight corruption and restore the authority of government."

Khasbulatov Hits Government Finance Policy

PM0209193993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Article by Ruslan Khasbulatov: "Ruslan Khasbulatov: A Fragment of Cynicism's Political Economy"]

[Text] Of late there have been constant voices in the press, as well as on radio and television, saying that the parliament has adopted a bad budget, it is disrupting the economic equilibrium, aggravating inflation, and so on and so forth. Moreover, this is not only being said by members of the government, but also by other people close to the government or the president. How true is this? How do things really stand?

When considering this matter you must primarily take into consideration how the government carries out its proclaimed duties of providing the population with social support and compensating it for income lost due to the pricing policy practised during the transitional period. It is also important to grasp how well-founded the actual budget calculations are that have been submitted to the parliament and whether there are reserves enabling the revenue base to be increased..

The Budget Reflects the Economy

The main thing to bear in mind when examining the budget is that it reflects the economy or, as we used to say, it is the country's financial plan. Naturally, we must take into consideration the fact that the economic crisis in the country is deepening. In 1992 alone prices rose by a factor of 30, and in 1993 as a whole they will rise again by around a factor of 10. This means that in the last two years prices will have risen by a factor of 300 and the population's monetary income will have risen, according to available estimates, by around a factor of 100 (a three-fold drop in the standard of living).

These figures indicate that the overwhelming majority of the population are reduced to poverty and condemned in the immediate future to still greater impoverishment. Such spheres of the national economy as the agro-industrial complex, defense, science, sociocultural establishments, and construction are in a particularly dire position. The acuteness of the question resides in the fact that the above spheres of the national economy have for the last two years failed to receive vast sums of money in compensation and to maintain their activity. If that situation persists, their collapse is virtually inevitable.

Let us touch on another acute question—the state's debt to the population. In view of the above figures for the rise in prices and wages the state's debt to its own population—debts linked with the payment of compensation to people—has already topped 30 trillion rubles [R].

It is a crime before the people to examine the budget without considering the above problems. Can one really fail to realize that? Is it really possible to artificially reduce spending by flouting the people's most basic requirements?

Of course, we all want the budget deficit to be minimal. It is an elementary truism that the smaller the deficit, the stabler state finances and consequently the more conditions there are for the normal functioning of the economy. But it is necessary to be realists and choose the option that will be the least catastrophic for the national economy and cause the population the least harm.

The complexity of the problem is that the government—in the estimates that it submits to the parliament—constantly and deliberately understates the financial base for calculating federal budget revenue. Thus, on the one hand, pressure is put on the parliament, forcing it to cut planned spending and, on the other, an opportunity is created when the budget is implemented to show how well the revenue plan is being overfulfilled. Calculations carried out by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Control and Budget Committee from one source alone—profits—show that total profits for all categories of activity in 1993 will be R48 trillion. That is R22 trillion more than in the government's estimates. Hence budget revenue is being artificially understated to the tune of R5 trillion. I would like to particularly stress that there are concrete factored [pofaktornyy] calculations which show that revenue is being understated when calculating production costs and applying the wholesale price index in respect of the government's revised indicators.

These are all extremely dishonest methods. They mark a repeat performance. When the 1992 budget was examined it was proved that the revenue base was being artificially understated. Evidently, there is an urgent need to introduce strict liability in respect of government officials and members of the government for submitting distorted figures for budget revenue.

That is the general picture, which characterizes the state of the economy and the process of shaping the budget. Add to that the fact that the timeframes for submitting the budget to parliament are artificially prolonged and constantly upset and that material is presented in an extremely raw form and requires tremendous effort by the parliament's committees and commissions to finalize and "finish off."

Of course, the parliament has adopted a budget with a considerably larger deficit than the government suggested. But that is, regrettably, reality for you today. This budget reflects the effective state of the economy and the deadlock, to which the quite ill-conceived economic policy of 1992-1993 has reduced it.

From Declarations to Practical Work

"Organize in practical terms the work of financial stabilization." This term has of late been constantly cited in all debates with the government, particularly in debates between the Central Bank and certain members of the government, and I fully agree with them. That is the main thing now, not to seek some kind of magic monetarist wand that would resolve everything for us.

Some preconditions have been created today to produce the conditions for financial stabilization. Experienced economic planners have entered the government and their influence is making itself felt in the way that problems are studied in greater depth and decisions prepared thoroughly and comprehensively.

Another political factor is also making itself felt—the Central Bank of Russia is now studying in greater depth and detail specific issues of monetary and credit policy and, most importantly, pursuing a comparatively moderate-to-tough monetary and credit policy.

The fact that the regions are taking a more active stance in resolving financial issues is undoubtedly also of extreme importance, They are raising these matters in a more principled, acute, and uncompromising manner.

Naturally, the following question arises: What steps can today ensure the practical organization of the work of financial stabilization, improving budgetary equilibrium, and reducing inflation. Evidently the following main areas can be singled out.

Defining economic priorities. That will make it possible to provide selective support for promising production units as well as for those enterprises that play a crucial role in the country's economy today. This will make it possible to rule out a further "collapse" in the economy, particularly in leading elements. That by no means precludes the closure of inefficient production units. But they must be closed in a competent manner, in accordance with the law, while providing conditions for production units to be revived on a new technical base.

Typically, this approach has been discussed at length of late and everyone seems to agree with it. But in practice the work of supporting priorities in production is proceeding in a sluggish, random manner, money is being dissipated and sluiced away without producing the proper effect. At the same time it is obvious that today more than ever before we must support the agro-industrial complex and production units undergoing conversion and ensure the in-depth processing of raw material resources. And, of course, preserve science and state of the art technologies. Practical work in this sphere is what the country needs, but it is, regrettably, being carried out in an impulsive, random manner.

Consistent and systematic implementation of financial policy. It is not a question of failing to provide funds for production development or for the maintenance of the sociocultural sphere. No, it is primarily a question of ensuring that taxes come into the treasury, formulating a coordinated regional financial policy, and creating tough, effective currency control. Of course, spending must be cut and monitored, but within reasonable limits. I have, inter alia, said repeatedly that we can save

tremendous amounts of money by cutting spending on the upkeep of the managerial apparatus. The whole executive now—both the presidential and the government executive—has become a huge apparatus from top to bottom, previously unprecedented even during the years of tight state control of the economy. This apparatus can be painlessly cut by 30-40 percent.

Instead the government is, effectively, failing to pursue a sober, well-considered, realistic financial policy. Everything usually boils down to underfunding various sectors of the national economy. Working people have not received their wages for months and sectors in extreme need of support have been left without investment. If we go further down this road, we will come up against mass strikes and indignation from the people at large. Money will have to be allocated, and far more than now. That might be the result of these thoughtless economics known as the "economics of cynicism."

Streamlining credit provision for the national economy. Some government figures are propagating the idea that the whole trouble lies in the uncontrolled way in which the Central Bank supplies centralized preferential credits. However, according to current figures, only R300 billion has been earmarked for "urgent needs" in the second quarter. The bulk of the credits are issued at the government's request.

In the future it will probably not nonetheless be possible to avoid an increase in centralized credit, but a moderate increase, of course. The source of funding must per se be tougher and less inflationary, but the main thing is to ensure that the government monitors the effective use of credit, and that is primarily a task for the government's Commission for Credit Policy. According to current estimates, Bank of Russia credits account for 37 percent of the republic budget's total spending, or an increase of just 5.5 points in a year.

Ensuring an increase in budget revenue. This is beyond a shadow of a doubt is the most important and, needless to say, the most difficult task. It necessitates an attentive attitude primarily to production, that is to those elements of the economy that really create the revenue of the national economy, but no one today is tackling production. Government organs are not tackling it—they are not in the mood, they are busy with politics; entrepreneurs are not tackling it because no fool today would invest in a production unit that only makes losses. Therefore well-organized state support for enterprise is needed, credit and financial support, and this must be tackled on a daily basis, in depth and in detail.

Imaginary Financial Aid for "Developing Countries"

In his 1 July 1993 letter to the chairman of the Russian parliament the Russian finance minister cites quite incredible figures for the size of the country's GDP and the amount of "aid" in comparative terms. He asserts in particular that in 1992 Russia "provided developing countries with $17 billion in aid," which, in his opinion, represents 21.4 percent of Russia's GDP, whereas the United States provided $9.91 billion in the same year (0.17 percent), Germany—$7.6 billion (0.39 percent), Japan—$11.3 billion (0.3 percent), France—$17 billion (21.4 percent [figure as published]).

This may annoy the ordinary citizen. The country is experiencing a profound economic crisis, there is poverty all around, and suddenly vast sums of "aid" are sent to "developing countries." Let us try to analyze this question from two angles. First, is it right to claim that the amount of "aid" which Russia gave to developing countries in 1992 is equivalent to 21.4 percent of its GDP? Second, how correct is the finance minister in using the term "aid for developing countries"?

According to International Bank for Reconstruction and Development estimates, in 1991 Russia's GDP was estimated at over $1 trillion. According to IMF specialists' figures (WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK, May 1993), Russian GDP constitutes 33 percent of U.S. GDP, which is $3 trillion. The Russian State Committee for Statistics also estimates Russia's GDP at around the $1-1.2 trillion mark. If you bear in mind an 18-19-percent drop in GDP in 1992 at comparable prices at a time when world market prices rose correspondingly by 3-5 percent, the upshot is that Russia's GDP in 1992 was around $900 billion. Thus, even if you are talking about the $17 billion in "aid" that Russia provided in 1992, that is by no means 21.4 percent of GDP. It is a maximum of 5 percent. This represents a gross juggling of the figures combined with ignorance of the Finance Ministry's object of jurisdiction.

The finance minister also interprets arbitrarily the concept of "developing countries" and expands it in an extraordinary way. If it is seen in the universally recognized sense—as the countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America—there can be no talk of Russian aid for these countries. After the parliament asked the government to submit a report on currency operations, it emerged that the Russian Government does not have these figures at all. According to a number of international estimates, our total "aid" in various forms (that is "classical," free aid) to developing countries in 1992 barely amounted to $50 million. Tell me then, what percentage is the $50 million in aid of our GDP of $900 billion. Perhaps the Russian Finance Minister can calculate that for himself?

The finance minister means the CIS countries as the main recipient of Russian "aid." In other words, a falsehood was committed, moreover a major, political falsehood. But even if you entertain the idea that the finance minister through ignorance calls subsidies "aid," they do not amount to 21.4 percent of GDP, as he claims, but just 1.5-1.7 percent. These estimates have been borne out by a whole series of Russia's research establishments, international organizations, and experts—it is hard to arrive at these figures though if you take official statistics as the base for your calculations...

However, providing credit resources and subsidies to members of the CIS on strength of corresponding supplies of output is not "aid" and not even so much "subsidies" as a means of enabling the Russian economy to survive, an economy which needs aid as much as the economies of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Uzbekistan, and other countries. The Russian Government's failure to understand this fact in implementing financial and credit policy undermines the chance of economic stability both in Russia itself and in the other countries firmly linked to it via production sharing. During the transitional phase these production ties still act as "internal" rather than "external" ties for enterprises.

This entire hoax that Russia is supposedly "prolonging other people's difficulties" is being deliberately "driven" into people's minds at a time when serious action has been taken to break up the CIS once and for all, undermine the production, technological, and financial and credit ties between the CIS countries, and blatantly try to foist on them "one's own" model of economic development (that is the IMF model), and force them out of the ruble zone. And these practical actions are being taken against the backdrop of bombastic speeches about economic union, while doing everything possible to discredit the pan-Slav idea.

Of course, this ideologization of the economic policy of a major state, which objectively—without any special actions—influences other countries' course is intolerable. Political cynicism combined with flagrant financial and economic deception is too formidable a weapon, capable not only of damaging our country and our partners but also seriously weakening them and having an adverse effect on public opinion within the Commonwealth, sowing mistrust of this already frail international formation, with which many people in the new countries associate the re-creation of our common destiny.

Yeltsin Presents Objections to Budget Changes

PM0309090793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 3

[Message to Supreme Soviet from President Boris Yeltsin; date not given: "The Country's Financial Position. Boris Yeltsin Has Not Signed the Law on the Amplification of the Russian Budget Indicators and Has Referred It Back To the Supreme Soviet for Reexamination. His Message to Parliament, Published by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Today, Speaks of the Reasons Why This Document Cannot Be Signed by the Russian Federation President"]

[Text] Guided by Part 2 of Article 117 and Point 2 of Article 121-5 of the Russian Federation Constitution, I am referring back the Russian Federation Law "On the Amplification of the Russian Federation Republic Budget Indicators for 1993" to the Russian Supreme Soviet for reexamination. This legislative act cannot be signed by the Russian Federation president for the following reasons:

1. In the law adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, the maximum level of the Russian Federation republic budget deficit for 1993 has been increased to 22.4 trillion rubles[R], which is R10.5 trillion more than proposed by the government. **In respect of the volume of expenditure, the size of the deficit is thus increased from 30.2 to 50 percent.**

The proposals to ensure the reliable functioning of the country's economy made by the Russian government, which were aimed at strengthening the budget income base and restraining the growth of the deficit, were completely rejected by the people's deputies in the process of discussing the draft law. Furthermore, the parliament did not determine the sources of cover for the colossal budget deficit—which will make the process of implementing the budget in the second half of this year even more difficult.

The implementation of the submitted law will lead to a sharp intensification of a budget imbalance which, even at the most conservative estimates, already significantly exceeds the maximum permissible critical level; and reaching even that level entails a real threat of the complete destabilization of the financial system, an inevitable sharp fall in the living standards of a significant proportion of the population, and, as a result, an explosive growth of social tension in society.

The implementation of the adopted budget will lead to spiraling inflation, a growth in the state debt that is already extremely onerous for Russia, and the further undermining of confidence on the part of international financial organizations that are providing assistance in the implementation of Russian economic reforms.

All this will happen in a situation in which the state's financial situation can be assessed as critical, since a Bank of Russia credit issue is the only realistic source of financing the budget deficit, and this will increase by at least 100 percent in the second half of this year. Thus, the measures being taken by the government together with the Central Bank to restrain the growth of credit resources to a level of 30 percent, making it possible to avoid a sharp, inflationary pumping of liquidity into the economy, as well as the measures taken in June-July of this year on the Russian president's initiative to restrict the increase in state expenditure, will prove to have been in vain.

It is perfectly obvious that the decision adopted by the Russian Supreme Soviet to amplify the Russian Federation republic budget indicators for 1993 **contravenes the course of economic and social development which has been consistently carried out by the federal organs of state executive power, and practically cancels out the work they did last year to stabilize the financial system.**

2. The Supreme Soviet's ratification of amplified budget indicators for 1993 grossly violates the mandatory procedure for examining and adopting the budget established by legislation currently in force, as well as the requirements laid down in respect of its structure.

As is clear from Article 22 of the RSFSR Law "On the Principles of the Budget Structure and the Budget Process in the RSFSR," when examining a draft budget the Supreme Soviet is obliged to adopt decisions on the basic characteristics of the budget in the following order: First of all—on the upper limit on appropriations in the current expenditure budget and the development budget (expenditure part), and also on the limit of the budget imbalance (deficit), and only after that on the individual items of expenditure in accordance with the budget classification.

Despite the government representatives' objections, the indicated procedure was undermined by an item-by-item vote on individual amendments to the Russian Federation law "On the Russian Federation Republic Budget for 1993," made by the government and the Supreme Soviet committees and commissions, as well as the people's deputies.

In violation of Article 11 of the RSFSR Law "On the Principles of the Budget Structure and the Budget Process in the RSFSR," the law fails to divide budget expenditure into the development budget and the current expenditure budget.

3. The legislative act presented for signing contains quite intolerable inaccuracies, notably:

1) the necessary reciprocal link is missing between the Article 1 provision whereby the overall amount of republic budget expenditure is ratified and the Article 4 provision determining the basic spheres of budget spending. Analysis shows that the targeted, itemized distribution of budget appropriations (in Article 4) exceeds the overall amount of expenditure ratified in Article 1 of the law by **R1.9 trillion**. Furthermore, the amount of the increase of republic budget income ratified in Article 1 of the law and a breakdown of the total on the basis of the main types of income sources cited in Article 2 of the law disagree by **R1.3 trillion**. This means that the aforesaid sums will have to be found from additional sources in the process of implementing the budget.

Taking into account what has been set forth above, the size of the Russian Federation republic budget deficit has virtually been increased by another R3.2 trillion to total **R25.6 trillion**;

2) as you can see from the officially circulated transcripts of the session's sittings, in violation of the Supreme Soviet Standing Orders, amendments that were not examined or discussed by the people's deputies have been adopted in the income section of the republic budget. This primarily concerns an increase in income from the privatization of installations in federal ownership and share dividends from state property, unlawful amendments which account for **R425 billion.**

Money from the fund for financial support for the power industry and electrification to the tune of **R362 billion** was included in the income part of the budget (Article 2 of the law). However, the deputies did not ratify targeted expenditure for this sum of money from the fund, and as a result it was not included in Article 4 of the law. This means that the confirmed republic budget deficit must be increased by the same amount;

3) the scale of finance for state programs and investments, the transcript makes clear, was fixed at R9.1 trillion. However, in the process of distributing money for specific programs and spheres of expenditure, the aforesaid scale was exceeded by **R140 billion**. Thus, within the framework of the measures of financial support to the northern regions, appropriations for the construction of housing for citizens leaving areas of the Far North were increased without the relevant change being made to the overall sum channeled into the measures for the support of the northern regions previously coordinated with the government;

4) Point 12 of Article 4 of the law establishes the scale of financing expenditure on foreign economic activity at R5.17 trillion, but the item-by-item distribution of expenditures exceeds this overall limit by **R1.3 trillion**;

5) the limit of expenditure on the upkeep of organs of state power and administration, courts, prosecutor's office organs, and Russian Federation missions abroad determined in Article 4 of the law was adopted at R653.9 billion, according to the transcript. However, during the distribution of the aforesaid resources—and this is reflected in Article 13 of the law—the expenditure on the upkeep of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, as well as organs of the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office, was increased by a total sum of **R44.074 billion**. This increase in expenditure during the ballot was effected without amending the overall scale of the limit of the expenditure of the aforesaid budget funds, which, in the process of implementing the budget, could lead to a stoppage in the financing of Russian Federation ministries and departments and their territorial organs. Evidently taking this into account, in the text of the law presented for signing expenditure in Article 4 on the upkeep of organs of power and administration was amended during the revision, raising the figure by **R39.804 billion** to R693.7 billion. At the same time, allocations for the upkeep of Russian Federation missions abroad to the tune of **R4.3 billion** were "lost;"

5) [number as published] the size of funds for the mass media has been determined at **R140 million** less than was allotted between the expenditure for the "periodical press" and "television and radio broadcasting," and indeed, in violation of the Standing Orders, expenditure on "television and radio broadcasting" has been increased further without discussion by **R550 million;**

6) expenditure on the salvaging of nuclear submarines and nuclear weapons has been included on the list of protected articles in the Russian Federation republic budget (Appendix No. 1 to the law) without a ballot.

4. The law needs radical revision.

As is clear from Article 22 of the RSFSR Law "On the Principles of the Budget Structure and the Budget Process in the RSFSR," the Supreme Soviet ratifies the budget in the form of a law. The law presented to the president is not in essence and content a full-fledged normative act on the budget **as a full and precise list of the state's monetary income and expenditure for a specific period,** but only amends the previously published legislative act on this question. Proceeding on this basis, for the purposes of the precise implementation of the aforesaid norm, amendments and addenda must be made to the Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Republic Budget for 1993" dated 14 May 1993 No. 4966-1, which is the **only** legislative act that has the power to determine the country's annual budget indicators.

In particular, given the content of Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11 of the law presented for signing, new wordings of Articles 1, 3, 8, 12, and 13 and Appendix No. 1, as well as Articles 18, 22, and 26 of the law dated 14 May 1993, must be ratified.

As for additional appropriations occasioned by transfers made for mutual settlement purposes from the Russian Federation republic budget to the budgets of national-state and administrative-territorial formations to compensate for expenditure connected with implementing decisions by federal organs of power, as well as appropriations for the needs of village and settlement soviets of people's deputies in the aforesaid formations (Articles 7 and 10 of the newly adopted law), these spheres of budget resource expenditure can be provided for as supplements under Articles 4 and 13 respectively of the law dated 14 May 1993.

5. There seems to be potential within the framework of the present law for some increase in the income part of the Russian Federation republic budget for 1993, and consequently for a reduction of the deficit. In this connection the following proposal is submitted for discussion by the Supreme Soviet:

Article 3 of the law establishes that in 1993 an eightfold multiplier [koeffitsient 8] is applied to land tax on agricultural land and the tax on city lands ratified in the RSFSR law "On Payment for Land." Thus the aforesaid norm does not stipulate the application this year of an increased rate of land taxes on land in agricultural population centers and land outside population centers granted to citizens to use as personal plots, for individual and collective horticulture, gardening, and stock raising and, and to legal entities, on land for industrial use, transportation, communications, and other purposes.

Meanwhile, the tax rates on land given to citizens in rural areas **fixed at 1 kopek per square meter (R1 per 0.01 hectare)** established by the RSFSR law "On Payment for Land" do not correspond to the change in the population's income and the price rise in the face of the prevailing economic situation in Russia. The total of the tax that citizens in fact pay for using the aforesaid land (between R6 and R20 per annum) does not even cover expenditure on registering this category of taxpayer, expenditure on preparing accounting and payment documentation, and postal and other costs for receiving and depositing these payments in branches of the Bank of Russia (over R600 million in all). The taxation rates on land used by industry outside population centers are also unjustifiably low in comparison with the same kind of installations within the precincts of cities and city-type settlements.

Taking the aforementioned into account, it is proposed to provide for the application of an eightfold multiplier to all land tax rates ratified in the RSFSR Law "On Payment for Land." It is also expedient to discuss the possibilities of a greater increase in the given multiplication rate.

The accounts presented by the Russian Federation State Tax Service show that the total of additional payments into the Russian Federation republic budget with the application of the eightfold multiplier alone is **at least R2.436 billion.** And the average size of the annual tax per taxpayer will be equal to R115 in all.

If the proposed amendment is adopted, the indicators in Article 3 of the Russian Federation Law "On the Russian Federation Republic Budget for 1993" in the section on income from the transfer of funds from land tax will also have to be adjusted.

In referring back the legislative act for reexamination by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, I call on the people's deputies to display maximum attention and responsibility during the discussion of the proposals made in the present letter.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin

Fedorov Remarks in Budget Debate Viewed

PM0209125393 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Aug 93 p 1

[Nadezhda Garifullina report: "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Session. Passions About Budget"]

[Text] You have to give government officials and the president their due: They are exploiting to the full the situation surrounding the budget in the war against the legislative branch of power, making real capital from it for themselves. All organs of the presidential and governmental presses sounded off for several months about the worthless Supreme Soviet allegedly delaying confirmation of the budget. It was very easy to see through this falsehood; you only had to remind the all too forgetful government politicians that the draft budget for 1993 was not presented by 15 September 1992 but only by 20 January 1993.

After the adoption on 22 July of the decree to promulgate the Russian Federation Law "On Specifying the Indicators for the Russian Federation Republic Budget

for 1993," the Supreme Soviet was attacked with renewed vigor. The president, members of the government, and the loyal press burned with righteous anger: How did the deputies dare to confirm the budget with such a huge deficit?!

Formally speaking the president was in the right when he vetoed the law the Supreme Soviet had adopted: Who is going to dispute that that a budget deficit of 26 trillion rubles [R] is a bad thing? The government has one further argument: It presented a draft with a smaller deficit, but this reduction was achieved only at the expense of all social programs and defense spending. Once it had increased expenditure for these items in the budget, the Supreme Soviet could not agree to this—and it has paid the price.

But let us turn to the brilliant move by the president concerning responsibility, where the assumption is made that not only the deputies who confirm the budget should possess this praiseworthy quality, but also members of the government who are obliged by their conditions of service to be responsible for the state treasury not becoming depleted and income exceeding outgoings. For example, Russian Federation Finance Minister B. Fedorov, the president's official representative at the further examination of the law on specifying the indicators for the Russian Federation republic budget for 1993, amply demonstrated the extent to which the men of state are responsible at the joint session of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet on Friday. In the first place the minister contrived to say nothing of substance during his seven-minute speech. On the other hand we heard considered claims that the R26 trillion deficit "of course, represents an almost unique phenomenon in world history," and that "hyperinflation first and foremost means the people's impoverishment," in short that the Volga flows into the Caspian Sea. Moreover, the minister supported his standpoint by quoting Lenin and twice quoted the works of Ruslan Imranovich, from 1977 and 1988, then categorically denied the accusations that "he allegedly is at the IMF's beck and call," and finally proposed to the deputies that they "check things out and have a talk with IMF representatives."

The speech gave a strange impression. Why had the minister mounted the podium? To quote Lenin and Khasbulatov? On the other hand the minister avoided the question of how the government intends to reduce the deficit with the skill of a tightrope artist.

It would also have been nice, to hear about the budget deficit's sources from the minister himself. In particular, L. Krestyaninov asked for a reply to the question of how much, after all, the president's pre-election promises are worth. Here you clearly have to remind people that when meeting with students, servicemen, miners, and other categories of voter before the referendum, the president pulled increments, supplements, and additional payments out of his sack like a kindly Santa Claus. In essence the "national" president was buying the electors' votes and paying for them from the state treasury. So, when B. Fedorov answered the deputy's question, he graphically demonstrated the cheapness of the president's populist steps: "Everything that was in the law on servicemen and in several of the president's edicts and government decrees cost approximately R7 trillion." ("The pre-referendum edicts cost from R8 to R12 trillion"—the chairman said immediately to clarify the point.) "We, in particular the Ministry of Finance, have come out with proposals to revoke a number of decisions, including those of the government, as as they are not based on viable sources and are leading to the budget's collapse." It turns out that he has done his bit and put the ball back in the president's court, and it is now possible to go back on what has been done.

During the discussion, the question of the government breaking the time limits for presenting the budget message to parliament was raised more than once, and the finance minister was forced to admit this mistake. But if only it was the only one! M. Polunin, chairman of the Audit and Budget Committee, reminded us that the question of credits should have been decided at the end of the fourth quarter of 1992, then use of them would be effective. But in May the Supreme Soviet adopted a decision on appropriating credits of R700 billion to carry out investment and conversion policy, and the Ministry of Finance has to this day been involved in finding the credit. Another two and a bit months have been lost. The Ministry of Finance justifies itself by saying that all the time it has been finqlizing a method for issuing credits, and has been looking for sources. But, you see, all these questions should be resolved before the credits are handed out and the decision is adopted.

These are just some of the aspects of the "kitchen" where the federal budget is cooked up; true the "cooks" from the government and the Ministry of Finances are totally misusing their equipment and not following the recipe: Here is the "dish," it has such and such wrong with it. It was in vain that the deputies put B. Federov on the spot and demanded that he say what the government was actually proposing in order to reduce the budget deficit. The minister only promised: "The government is scrutinizing these measures and we are goingto put them to you... But I simply do not have the right to discuss this program today when the government has not yet confirmed it..." But as everybody already knows, the finance minister did not appear after the lunch break at all. This comes back to the question of responsibility, about which the president lectured the deputies in his letter to the Supreme Soviet. He himself should act in a principled manner here and display some responsibility of his own before his trusty vassals start a new "crusade" against the hateful Supreme Soviet, turning it in the eyes of his fellow citizens into a scapegoat for his sins. It is time, high time, for him to use his power. But will the president take this step?

Rumyantsev Discusses Constitutional Reform

LD0209163293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1143 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Studio Interview with Oleg Rumyantsev, senior secretary of the Russian Constitutional Commission, by program announcers Oleg Vorobyev and Tatyana Ivanova—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Rumyantsev] Not for nothing have I sent an open letter to Yeltsin and Khasbulatov. I am grateful to your program for reporting it. So far only Khasbulatov has replied. I suggested that a coordinating forum should be held in September. I said that this should be attended by 10 people from each side, making a total of 20 people—not 800 as at the Constitutional Conference. There would be 10 from each side. At this meeting they should agree on the principles involved in preparing a single draft constitution in time for the November Congress.

[Ivanova] Do you consider this a possibility?

[Rumyantsev] Well, Khasbulatov has agreed, but Yeltsin has not yet responded. They appear to be hoping that a joint meeting of the Constitutional Conference and the Constitutional Commission, to be held in mid-September, could do the job of this coordinating forum. But I am very much afraid that this will be a caricature of the idea. I am very much afraid that the voices of the Constitutional Commission will be drowned, lost in the huge Constitutional Conference. I very much fear that the domestic political talks, talks within the state, which are so urgently needed, will not take place. For example, I have not met Yeltsin since 7 February. In Khasbulatov's case it is far longer, I think. We need to meet, not just us as individuals, but all those who are actually involved in the constitutional process. So it is important for this meeting to take place. Otherwise, constitutional reform may have to be given up as a lost cause, when November comes round.

[Ivanova] I think you are partly to blame for this. You have spent three years working on the constitution, but the public knew virtually nothing about it. You missed an important opportunity to explain and publicize each point as it came up, to get people used to the idea, to let them know that work was being done. Now it has been suddenly sprung on them. They are being told all of a sudden that somebody has done something. Now let's adopt it. Since this meeting is going to be held, why don't you use the remaining time to keep reminding people of what has been going on, to familiarize our listeners with the Constitutional Commission's position, with the position of deputies, so that they are ready, so that they know what you are asking society to accept?

Before giving you half a minute for your final remarks, let me say that our conversation today has not been very long. But I am prepared to give you more airtime on a weekly basis. Come along and give us the benefit of your views.

Now I have a proposal for the listeners. Public opinion polls are often held to establish the popularity of politicians, to find out who are the best, the most intelligent, the most liked. I am now going to suggest the opposite. Let us identify a bogeyman, an anti-hero. Let us find out whom listeners regard as the organizer of this confrontation, of this explosive instability in society. Once the program is over, you will have an hour to ring us on the studio number—205-59-51. Keep it short. We just want a single name.

[Rumyantsev] In conclusion I wish to say that the time which has passed since the beginning of the constitutional reform has not been wasted. Citizens are already discussing and arguing in a serious way about the foundations of the constitutional system toward which we are moving. But nothing will happen, there will be no changes to the nature of political power unless major political forces are restructured into parties or blocs. A whole series of negotiations has been held today. They will be continued. I think a single bloc of social democrats and socialists is already emerging which could make serious and authoritative demands for substantial changes in the present leadership's socio-political course.

[Ivanova] I hope we will discuss this very topic next week, in one of our programs.

[Rumyantsev] Good.

[Ivanova] I remind you that Oleg Germanovich Rumyantsev, people's deputy of the Russian Federation and senior secretary of the Constitutional Commission, was participating in our program. We await your telephone calls with answers to the question of who, in your view, is society's anti-hero. The telephone number is 205-59- 51.

There is just one thing I would like to add. We get a lot of telephone calls, letters rather, telling us that our program should be taken off the air and replaced with a presidential hour. Ten minutes after our program ends you will be hearing a feature entitled "Author's Channel: from the First Person". Ask yourselves, Who is the first person in our state? If you do, I think all proposals and questions will fall away. Goodbye, until we meet again tomorrow.

Rumyantsev Satisfied on Talks With Filatov

LD0209173493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1651 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's office, and Oleg Rumyantsev, chairman of the Russian Constitutional Commission, met on Thursday [2 September] to discuss prospects for interaction in the implementation of the constitutional reform in Russia.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Rumyantsev said that the meeting was held in a constructive atmosphere and achieved the established goal.

He said both sides agreed that the final draft of a new constitution should be submitted for adoption to the Congress of Russian People's Deputies to be convened in November. At present there are two drafts and amendments proposed by Vladimir Isakov, co-chairman of the opposition National Salvation Front. Rumyantsev warned that if the two drafts are submitted to the upcoming congress, "this will finish the constitutional reform."

Rumyantsev said he and Filatov agreed that it is necessary to hold joint discussions to iron out the existing disagreements and work out a single draft. Additionally, there is no unanimity about the form and contents of such discussions. It is very important that the Supreme Soviet gives its go-ahead for such talks, Rumyantsev added.

He said expanded talks on the issue that began in Moscow on Thursday may continue next week. This will signify the understanding by both sides that if they fail to develop a responsible political dialogue, "the transformation of the Kremlin and the White House (Russian parliament headquarters) into two smolnys (Bolshevik headquarters in October 1917 revolution) will become inevitable," Rumyantsev said.

He believes that none of the political forces on both sides of barricades can gain the upper hand as their "forces are equal." They need a political dialogue, Rumyantsev added.

Parliament Offering 'Evolutionary' Reform

PM0109144193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Constitutional Legislation Committee, by Aleksey Vorobyev; place and date not given: "The Law Will Not Tolerate Adventurism"]

[Text] Since there is no way politicians of a certain hue are going to abandon their obsession with the rapid approval of the new Constitution, the law "On the Procedure for the Adoption of the Russian Federation Constitution," which has had its first reading in parliament, is going to have a marked influence on the constitutional process in the very near future. Our correspondent asked Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Constitutional Legislation Committee, to comment on this document.

[Vorobyev] Vladimir Borisovich, there have been different assessments in the different media of the law adopted by the Supreme Soviet. Some people even regard it as having provided additional sources of conflict between the branches of power. Is the document really that "aggressive," is it a kind of challenge to the president and Constitutional Conference?

[Isakov] The draft law first of all answers the question as to what is the only legitimate, legal way of adopting the Russian Constitution in existing conditions and creates a clear and what is in my view normative foundation for the current constitutional process.

Article 1 of the law establishes who is entitled to originate constitutional legislation. It is the president and the government, people's deputies, the supreme organs of power of the Federation members, and the supreme judicial authorities. Citizens and organizations that are not entitled to originate constitutional legislation, for example, higher educational establishments, scientific institutions, and labor collectives, can submit their own drafts and proposals to the Congress or to the Supreme Soviet through the Constitutional Commission, through people's deputies and the relevant soviets, or through republic public associations.

Article 2 explains the procedure for the discussion of alternative constitutional drafts. In accordance with the principles of pluralism and glasnost, it demands equal opportunities for the coverage of each officially submitted draft in the media. In fact, this is exactly how our media must act if they are going to observe the existing legal norms.

Article 4 envisages that any change in Russia's federal structure must be agreed with the Federation members. This provision arises out of the existing Constitution and Federal Treaty. But the law does not indicate how, in what way the agreement is to take place, whether it will be by initialing, ratification, or approval of changes by a decision of the supreme organ of power in the region. Since it is necessary to operate on the basis of specific political conditions, it is obviously wrong to stifle regional initiative in this respect.

[Vorobyev] There is much talk and conjecture at the moment about new ways of adopting the Constitution. Are these "fashionable" tendencies reflected in the law you are analyzing; are there any new procedures present in it too?

[Isakov] The authors of the draft law were unable to suggest any fundamental innovations; they were simply not entitled to. Otherwise our ideas would have contradicted existing constitutional norms. According to them, there are only two legitimate procedures: After it has been discussed and agreed with the members of the Federation, the draft Constitution must be submitted to the Congress of People's Deputies or it can be submitted to a nationwide vote—a referendum. Here the law proposes a slight innovation.

A point has been inserted into Article 6 to the effect that a decision is deemed to have been adopted by referendum if at least two-thirds of all the Federation members vote for the new Constitution. This addition seems to us to be warranted, since it makes it possible to protect

the "rights of the minority"—the small (in population terms) members of the Federation. Moreover, this point reproduces an idea in an article in the "president's" draft Constitution, the version approved by the Constitutional Conference.

[Vorobyev] The law says that deliberate violation of the procedure for the adoption of the Constitution is a state crime and the sentence is an indefinite one. Is this legal norm not too harsh?

[Isakov] It must be clearly understood that, if an official were to attempt now to violate the procedure for adopting the new Basic Law, in the current very acute political situation such an act could destroy the country completely; that is, it would no longer be a question of the fate of a particular document, albeit the most important state document; the consequences could be global and highly dramatic. There could be a sudden outbreak of social instability, intensification of political confrontation, weakening of federal links, and destruction of some state institutions.

Therefore, in view of the extremely dangerous nature of such actions, the law provides for major penalties. So that no one is tempted to play with fire.

As you can see, the procedure we have proposed for the adoption of a new Constitution is based entirely on existing legislation, only developing and adding to it slightly, in accordance with the changes taking place in society. This is a normal, evolutionary way of modernizing legal norms, one that preserves the continuity of laws.

This document is now with the president, the government, the Supreme Soviet, and the members of the Federation and they will present their findings. The deadline for presenting amendments and additions is 20 August [as published]. Let us hope that then it will be quickly given a second reading at the parliamentary session and will have a major effect on the constitutional process.

Regional Affairs

Rutskoy Visits Coal Miners in Vorkuta 2 Sep

LD0209153293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1503 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—Suspended Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy "started a political campaign on the lines of fighting for presidency" meeting on Thursday [2 September] coal miners in Vorkuta (northern Russia), Nikita Shulga, local union leader told ITAR-TASS by telephone.

The chairman of the coal miners' independent trade union said the workers "could hardly understand the sense of the reforms in coal mining industry proposed by Rutskoy".

"Miners will never support Rutskoy in his struggle for power", Shulga reiterated.

Says Visit Not Political

LD0209170493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1633 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[Text] Vorkuta (Komi Republic) September 2 TASS—Vorkuta, a Russian coal-mining city beyond the polar circle, gave on Wednesday night [1 September] rather a homely welcome to Aleksandr Rutskoy, who was temporarily relieved of his duties as Russian vice-president by a presidential decree earlier in the day.

When asked by TASs about the purpose of his trip to Vorkuta, Rutskoy answered that he was presently touring Russia to study public opinion and to evaluate situations in Russia's provinces. In addition to it, he came to Vorkuta to take part in working out a special programme and drafting a law on the coal-mining industry and social protection of the miners. The suspended vice-president said he had been invited to the northern city together with a group of specialists by mining labor collectives in order to analyse these drafts.

Rutskoy specially emphasised that the trip was "by no means politically motivated" and pledged that he had no intention to call for strikes, being "a determined opponent of rallies and strikes since they cannot solve any problems".

On Thursday, Rutskoy met with miners of the "Severnaya" coal- mine and answered their numerous questions. The meeting was largely centered on a programme called "Miners' Wheel", which is intended to unite the miners of Russia's north, metallurgists of the city of Cherepovets, builders and workers of some other industries into a single complex. Later in the day, Rutskoy toured Vorkuta, met with servicemen and workers. On Friday, he expects to visit the "Yun-Yaga" mine, which is planned to be shut down as a loss-making one, as well as to meet with people's deputies and factory managers.

The situation in Vorkuta remains highly volatile because of non-payments, delays in paying wages, holiday pays and hardship allowances. However, Vorkuta miners do not plan to go on strike for the time being. The Vorkuta Federation of the Independent Coal-Mining Trade Union announced yesterday that it would not take part in the national strike of coal-miners scheduled for September 6. The Independent Trade Union of Vorkuta Miners and the City Workers' Cmmittee also flatly opposed the proposed strike. All mines and other enterprises in Vorkuta are functioning as usual today.

Soskovets Visits Khabarovsk Kray Military Plants

OW0309052593 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0415 GMT 1 Sep 93

[By V. Voropayev; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] Oleg Soskovets, [first] vice premier of the Russian Government, at the suggestion of the Khabarovsk Kray administration, spent quite a lot of time at military industrial complex enterprises, where an extraordinarily large number of issues had accumulated as a result of disproportionate conversion. [Video shows welcome at Khabarovsk airport, an aerial view of Khabarovsk, Soskovets visiting an aircraft building plant and a construction site.]

It is difficult to say how the government viewed these problems from Moscow in the past. However, having viewed the life of defense workers on the spot, members of the delegation began to lean noticeably to the opinion that the huge military production potential in the Far East must be preserved. The only thing that remains to be decided is how.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets' program also included visits to power generation, construction, and transport industry locations in Khabarovsk Kray. [Video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing Soskovets aboard an aircraft]

[Begin Soskovets recording] The location of the region obliges us to give the necessary care and attention which this Kray deserves because this is the gateway; it is that window into Europe which we used to talk about at one time [reference to a phrase coined by Peter the Great]. Now this is the window to the world, because everyone is looking to establish connections with the world market. This will be the natural economic condition of Russia of the future for which we are striving. I am convinced once more that there is no need to make all kinds of declarations, but just to get on with real objective work directed at realizing the concepts and relations with the Far East. [end recording]

Observers have noted that the delegation headed by Oleg Soskovets was the most representative of all ever to visit the Far East and also, perhaps for the first time in history, it stayed in one place for quite a long time—three days.

Border Troops Commander Ends Tour of Stavropol

LD0309105893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1029 GMT 3 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Stavropol September 3 TASS—Commander of the Russian Frontier Troops, Colonel-General Andrey Nikolayev concluded a tour of the Stavropol territory on Friday [3 September].

A set of problems connected with the protection of borders was discussed with chiefs of the territory. Units of the Transcaucasian Frontier District are being redeployed in a number of districts of the Stavropol territory under a decree of the Russian president signed several months ago. Stavropol was chosen as the venue for the headquarters.

Nikolayev had a substantive conversation with atamans (chiefs) of North-Caucasian Cossacks. Cossacks set out to the commander insistent demands to participate in the protection of the North Caucasian borders, which is a historic tradition, to help stabilise the situation in the seats of interethnic conflicts in the Caucasus, and to protect the interests of Cossacks and the Slav population in the Caucasus against the pressure by nationalist groups.

7 Oblasts Support 'Consultative' Federation Council

MK0209092093 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 36, 5 Sep 93 (Signed to Press 31 Aug 93) p A12

[Dmitriy Pushkar report: "Trump Card of the 'Small Seven'"]

[Excerpts] Last week, representatives of administrations and oblast soviets and regions in central Russia elaborated in Yaroslavl a range of documents signalling that the very "third force" that will in the near future radically alter the alignment of forces on the Russian Federation political arena has quietly matured in the provinces .

The Yaroslavl conference took place at the initiative of the host side. Vladimir, Vologda, Ivanovo, Kostroma, Tula, and Yaroslavl oblasts each sent one representative from each branch of power. Muscovites sent one oblast soviet chairman. Legislators and administrators in the provinces never feud with each other, with rare exceptions, which is why three documents were hammered out in Yaroslavl quickly and in full harmony between the branches.

The first two, similarly entitled "An Appeal," deal with budgetary issues in the agroindustrial complex in the form of humble requests to "understand our position." What makes the "small seven" a formidable force is the third document—a statement of the oblast soviets' and administrations' heads. Point one in this paper demands the creation of a Federation Council as a consultative body; point two demands that work continue on the draft of a new constitution, with the slight reservation that the draft be initialed by the components of the Russian Federation.

Expanding on point one, those who issued the statement ask components of the Federation to support the creation of a Federation Council. A number of questions falling within the competence of all the branches of federal power is to be discussed at the first session "in the near future." [passage omitted]

Expanding on the adoption of a new constitution, the "small seven" made an appeal for initialing the fundamental law and demanded that it should include the principles of equality of the Federation components, "decentralization of state power," and an "equal relationship" between the center and the provinces.

The only ones who were invited to Yaroslavl but did not come were representatives of Tver (for a valid reason), and the finance minister (for no reason whatever).

A source told your MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI correspondent that during their behind-the-scenes discussions, the plotters plan to have two cochairmen in the Federation Council—one from the executive branch and the other from the legislative branch so as not to end up under the influence of either the president or the Supreme Soviet.

One of the initiators of the conference, Aleksandr Veselov, chairman of the Yaroslavl Oblast Soviet, said in an exclusive interview to MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI that the statement is the fourth attempt by the regions to draw the supreme authority's attention to themselves. Quietly and politely, 18 oblasts asked the Supreme Soviet early in the year to consult the regions as to how to correctly conduct tax policy. In February, 32 oblasts modestly called the Supreme Soviet's attention to the fact that the discussion of the draft budget law was attended by violations of the Federation Treaty and the constitution, and the regions' rights were being infringed. The answer was silence. In August, they asked that a Supreme Soviet session make a decision within three days on setting aside money for harvesting and preparations for winter. Again, to no effect. In the absence of any results, they had to resort to active moves. The Yaroslavl Oblast Soviet chairman does not fear sanctions from the Supreme Soviet for so obviously siding with the president. Talking with your MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI correspondent, he referred to a prior agreement in parliament and the government.

North Ossetia Supports Council of Federation

LD0209211193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2040 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 3 TASS—The Presidium of the North Ossetian Parliament supported on Thursday [2 September] the idea of establishing a Council of the Federation in Russia as a consultative body.

At the same time, the presidium stressed the need to preserve the Council of Heads of Republic as a body reflecting the specificity of the multi-national Russian state.

The participants in the session also welcomed a proposal by several public organisations to hold the Second Congress of North Ossetian People's Deputies by the end of the year.

On Thursday, Parliament Chairman Askharbek Galazov and Prime Minister Sergey Khetagurov met with Ali Aliyev, vice-president of the Confederation of the Peoples of Caucasus, and Yuriy Tsobanov, a deputy of the confederation's parliament. They informed Galazov and Khetagurov that the parliament had decided to send two commissions to North Ossetia and Ingushetia to study the situation and map out measures to end the confrontation.

Galazov stressed that North Ossetian authorities would provide every possible assistance to the commission, including objective information. Speaking about the problem of refugees, Galazov stressed that its solution should be based on the existing realities and should not be rushed.

Meanwhile, the situation in the zone of the state of emergency in North Ossetia and Ingushetia remains stable. No shooting or local armed clashes were registered here in the past 24 hours. Russian peace-keeping forces in conjunction with local law enforcement bodies are fully in control of the situation in the region, the North Ossetian Security Council said.

Kalmykia Leader Visits Rostov Military Unit

PM0209115593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Aug 93 p 2

[Marlen Kryukov report: "Kirsan Ilyumzhinov Liked Rostov"]

[Text] Rostov-na-Donu—President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov of Kalmykia has been to Rostov-na-Donu. He arrived for a solemn ceremony of oath-taking by young soldiers of the signals training battalion in which the president performed compulsory service 13 years ago. He has very good memories of that time. According to him, the Army inculcated order and discipline in him.

Shortly before his arrival in Rostov K. Ilyumzhinov transferred 10 million rubles from private funds for the provision of amenities in the barracks and the purchase of television sets, video equipment, sports equipment, and equipment for the soldiers' tea room and mess room. The soldier did not forget his former commanding officers, handing them souvenirs and declaring that he would continue his patronage of the military unit.

International Affairs

Crimean Head on Yeltsin-Kravchuk Meeting

MK0109131593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Sep 93 p 1, 3

[Aleksandr Pilat report: "Russia, Ukraine Should Act as Collective Guarantor of Crimea's Security"]

[Text] The peninsula's dailies have published an article by Crimean Supreme Soviet Chairman Nikolay Bagrov entitled "Some Thoughts on The Time We Live In, on Crimea's Destiny, on Ways Out of the Crisis." The article says that the upcoming meeting of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in Crimea, at which they are expected to discuss problems related to the Black Sea Fleet and issues that have accumulated in interstate relations between Ukraine and Russia "on the one hand raises hopes that the desire to find a solution to the emerging problems is at hand, but on the other the apprehension remains: What if understanding is not reached; where and how will events unfold then?"

The author especially points out that Crimea has throughout its history been distinguished by its multiethnic population, and this is why "its territory has never been divided according to the principle of each ethnic community having its own piece of land." The overwhelming majority of states that formerly existed in Crimea were not built according to ethnic principles. If these attempts were made, such states inevitably ended up becoming protectorates of neighboring countries that pursued the policy of political and military expansion. "God forbid that Crimea for some reason should turn out to be the apple of discord between Russia and Ukraine. This must not be allowed in any event, for the consequences of this discord may be devastating, and the future generations will never forgive us," the article says. Nikolay Bagrov is deeply convinced that the Republic of Crimea may come into historical being only by way of unity, and not division between Russia and Ukraine. "I am convinced that this historic mission of Crimea is in line with the state interests of all countries of the Black Sea region." In Nikolay Bagrov's view, Crimea should not be viewed as someone's national territory. It has never been Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, or Tatar for that matter. "The argument over who has more historical rights to Crimea opens up no prospects for the future," Bagrov believes.

The Crimean parliament speaker sees it as entirely realistic that Russia and Ukraine should act as a collective guarantor of Crimea's security, given that it holds a special place in the history of relations between our peoples. It would be also desirable, the article emphasizes, that they sponsor a broader agreement on the consolidation of peace and stability throughout the Black Sea region.

What the Crimean parliament speaker sees as the most serious snag on this path is the unresolved problem of the Black Sea Fleet. "Our stance in this regard is well known, and I do not see why we should change it," Bagrov says. "I am certain that retaining a joint fleet and forgoing its split will serve the best strategic interests of Ukraine and Russia at this stage, and this is also in line with the opinions of the majority of the Crimeans and the sailors. This approach fully corresponds to the aforementioned idea of collective guarantees of Crimea's security."

Crimea Could Be 'Unifying Factor'

PM0209131993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Mitin of FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA: "Crimea Wants To Unite Russia and Ukraine"]

[Text] On the eve of the meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in Crimea 3 September, Crimea Supreme Soviet Chairman Nikolay Bagrov has sent an open letter to B. Yeltsin and L. Kravchuk formulating the local authorities' position with regard to the principal problems in interrepublic relations.

Bagrov stressed the need to grant the republic independence and gradually reform the economy. According to him, Crimea should exploit its geopolitical potential and become a unifying factor in relations between Russia and Ukraine. Bagrov noted that the peninsula has always been characterized by the multinational composition of its population, and therefore its territory has not been divided up according to the principle "to each ethnic group its own land."

The argument about who has the biggest historical right to Crimea is futile. In Bagrov's opinion, the peninsula should play the role of an international regional center. Instability in Crimea could not only provoke interstate conflicts but also affect the internal political situation in Russia and Ukraine. Bagrov stated that "Russia and Ukraine should stop trying to resolve their relations in terms of Crimea, discard their political ambitions, and ensure that it becomes possible for Crimea to develop in a normal, stable manner." Bagrov added: "I think it entirely realistic that Russia and Ukraine should act as collective guarantors of Crimea's security."

Regarding the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, the Supreme Soviet chairman noted that it is necessary to preserve a united fleet. According to Bagrov, this approach corresponds to the mood of Crimeans and sailors. Attention should basically be focused on social protection for servicemen. That is to say, the problems of dual citizenship, pension provision, and housing need to be urgently resolved.

Yeltsin Arrives in Crimea

LD0309090393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0810 GMT 3 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Yuriy Sizov, Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Simferopol, 3 Sep—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived at about midday in the Crimea today for

a working meeting with President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk. He was met at the airport in Simferopol by Leonid Kravchuk and other members of the Ukrainian delegation.

ITAR-TASS correspondents have learned that the meeting, to take place in Massandra, will start with the presidents holding a one-on-one discussion, while the prime ministers engage in talks. Talks between the full delegations will follow.

At 1600, the presidents are to hold a news conference.

Yeltsin-Kravchuk Meeting Begins

LD0309121493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 3 Sep 93

[Text] A working meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents is currently under way in the Crimea. Issues that have already become traditional as far as the relations between both countries are concerned are under examination: the fate of the Black Sea fleet, deliveries of fuel and payments for them. The signing of an agreement on an economic alliance between Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, planned for 7 September, will also be discussed.

U.S. Partner To Start 'Demilitarization' Business

PM0209120793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 93 p 4

[Valeriy Baberdin report: "Ukraine Seeks Contacts and Finds Them"]

[Text] The American company "Alliant Techsystems" (Minnesota) and the Ukrainian Defense Ministry have struck a deal to destroy tank weapons and artillery and mortar shells.

Under this agreement the American company will set up automated production lines to dismantle arms at two Ukrainian ammunition dumps. Here the ammunition will be taken apart mechanically or through the use of high-pressure water jets [gidromonitory]. The point is that a thin, high-pressure stream of water can cut through a shell without detonating the explosive device.

Equipment has already started to be delivered. It is expected that the number of personnel required to service the production lines will be in the region of 100 workers.

According to expert estimates (American and Ukrainian), the sale of copper, steel, brass, and aluminum scrap from the cases and components of the weapons could bring in an income of over $100 million in the next five years. This will be split between the two partners.

For "Alliant Techsystems," a leading producer of torpedoes and tank shells for the Pentagon, this deal signifies entry into the small but growing international demilitarization market. Many military contractors in the United States, Germany, Japan, and Israel have studied this market in depth. It is their view that a chance does exist here to compensate to some extent for the cut in orders for arms.

National Self-Defense Unit Withdrawing From Georgia

LD0209122793 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0700 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev, 1 Sep—Ukraine's National Self-Defense [UNSD] has ended its act of assistance to the Republic of Georgia in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. All Ukrainian soldiers of fortune who are now in Tbilisi at the invitation of the Georgian side to help preserve the Georgian Republic's integrity are soon to return home. According to UNSD commander Dmytro Korchynskyy, the unit was sent to Georgia at the end of June.

From the very start of their stay in the center of the conflict, UNSD fighters found themselves in severe combat conditions during military operations in Ochamchire and fighting near Shroma. After truce was called between the conflicting sides, the unit was transferred to Ochamchire from where it was withdrawn to Samtredia in compliance with the terms of the truce. However, with the start of a civil war in Georgia, UNSD fighters took no part in the combat having no authority to interfere with the internal affairs of a sovereign state. The Ukrainian fighters unit has now been transferred to Tbilisi where it will be evacuated to Ukraine.

During the combat operations in Georgia, three UNSD unit members were killed and 14 wounded. Korchynskyy refused to name the number of those who took part in the operations in the conflict area, saying it was a military secret.

Most observers take a negative view of UNSD activities both in Ukraine and abroad.

Government Delegation Leaves for Vienna

LD3108172893 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev [dateline as received]—According to Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, a Ukrainian government delegation left for an official visit to Vienna on 31 August. Before his departure for the Austrian capital, Mykola Mnykh, head of the delegation and first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, told the foreign economic department's press service: "We are looking forward to serious and responsible work with an extremely tight schedule. The core question, of course, is the agreement on trade and economic relations between Ukraine and Austria to be signed today. Negotiations with heads of a number of Austrian ministries and deparments are also planned, as well as other events, specifically, a roundtable meeting in the Chamber of

Economics with representatives of Austrian business circles, where I will talk about Ukraine's present economic condition and outline the opportunities and prospects for investing in the Ukrainian economy.

"We are going to Austria as to a good neighbor," Mykola Mnykh concluded, "a neighbor who is one of our most active partners. Austria is third among West European countries in trade turnover with Ukraine (over $90 million), ahead of countries such as Great Britain and France. On the whole, trade and economic relations between Ukraine and Austria are marked by dynamism and good prospects which create favorable conditions for further development of mutually beneficial ties."

Defense Minister Seeks Contacts With NATO

PM0309100393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Sep 93 p 1

[Viktor Drozd report: "General's Strange Passion. Ukrainian Defense Minister Seeks Contacts With NATO"]

[Text] Kiev—Summertime, when politicians are traditionally on vacation, sees the peak of activity by military men. Ukrainian Defense Minister K. Morozov has paid an official visit overseas and has been receiving colleagues from foreign parts. This military waltz concluded with a "confidential talk" with Admiral Miller, commander in chief, NATO Naval Forces, Atlantic. The few official reports on the talks and the documents that were signed fleshed out the statements from the minister himself. For instance, welcoming V. Ruehe, head of the FRG defense department, Kostyantyn Morozov noted that, given the "prevailing world situation," V. Ruehe's visit to Ukraine is "of particular significance." Why? In developing its own armed forces, "it is important for Ukraine to take account of the experience of Germany, which managed to rapidly set up its own army after World War II."

It will come as no surprise to most people in Ukraine that the Great Patriotic War has long since been "World War II" as far as K. Morozov is concerned, but the "German experience" is important to him for another reason—"by developing links with the FRG we can arrange close contacts with NATO."

Why is Ukraine in such a hurry to hide under the NATO umbrella? As the newspaper UKRAYINSKE SLOVO reported, the answer is to be found in K. Morozov's speech in the United States following the signing of the memorandum of mutual understanding and cooperation between Ukraine and the United States: "The subject of the threat to Ukraine's security was the main topic at the talks in the United States, along with the source of this threat in the consistent policy of pressure, blackmail, and the making of political demands—I am thinking above all of relations with the Russian Federation."

Clearly, in order to counter this threat, the $10 million allocated by the United States will, in the minister's words, go toward "setting up a Ukrainian-American center for scientific and strategic research in Kiev."

Analyzing the sources of Ukraine's increasingly frequent "military marriages," political observers are asking some interesting questions. Who, for instance, empowered K. Morozov to "target" the military doctrine against Russia before it had even been ratified by the Supreme Soviet? And should the president's silence in this instance be taken as a sign that he agrees with the military minister's statements? (We would recall that Hitler and his covert and overt patrons in Washington made it their task to dismember the USSR and to set the country's peoples at each other's throats in a fratricidal war.) In an attempt to please their new masters, Ukraine's politicians have prepared for their people the fate of being the "padding" between NATO and Russia.

Ukraine To Request Cut in UN Budget Contribution

LD3108174193 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev [dateline as received]—Borys Hudyma, head of the International Organizations Directorate at Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told a news conference at the Foreign Ministry that a Ukrainian delegation is preparing to take part in the 48th session of the UN General Assembly which opens in New York on 21 September and will last for a year. Around 158 issues will be put to the agenda of the Assembly. The Ukrainian delegation's objective, Mr. Hudyma said, will be to use every opportunity to ensure Ukraine's national security, its integrity, and the inviolability of its borders. It is planned to submit the issue of cutting Ukraine's contribution to the regular UN budget for the session's consideration.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Gabon

LD0209151493 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 2 Sep—Ukraine has signed an agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Gabon. Volodymyr Kryzhanitskyy, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Russian Federation, signed the document for the Ukrainian side.

Embassy Opened in Cairo

LD0209153893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0740 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep—The official opening of the Ukrainian embassy in Cairo took place on Wednesday [1 September]. It is the first Ukrainian embassy in Africa and in the Arab states. The charge d'affaires is Viktor Nagaychuk.

National Affairs

Troops Sent 'To Defend Sevastopol'

MK0209095293 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Sevastopol"]

[Text] As reported by sources close to the Black Sea Fleet, a motorized infantry brigade of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry deployed in Feodosiya has received a reinforcement of 400 men. According to earlier reports, young men saying they are going "to defend Sevastopol" have been seen arriving on the Kiev-Feodosiya train wearing fatigues.

Rukh Chairman Calls For New Supreme Council Elections

LD0209122593 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0700 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev, 1 Sep—The subject of a news conference by Vyacheslav Chornovil, the chairman of the Popular Movement of Ukraine [Rukh], and member of Rukh's central governing body Les Tanyuk, was the crisis of power in Ukraine and ways of changing the political system in the state. Today, Mr. Chornovil stressed, one cannot talk about the crisis in just one of the branches of power—legislative, executive, or judicial. Despite the fact that the government is coming under a lot of criticism which is well deserved, the main culprit of the present crisis is the parliament. "The Supreme Council of Ukraine must be reelected immediately. Today it is causing more destruction in the state than strikes, Rukh Chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil told the news conference. He declared that Rukh will use every means to press for new people to be appointed. Even now, Rukh is in touch with trade unions and other organizations who are actively working for the dissolution of the present Supreme Council. Vyacheslav Chornovil said that Rukh had lifted the short-term moratorium on criticizing Leonid Kuchma's government because he failed to live up to Rukh members' expectations, but Rukh is against changing the government. "We are not sure," the Rukh leader said, "whether the new people who would come to the Cabinet of Ministers will be any better."

Supreme Council Views Confidence Referendum

LD0209183193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1757 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Melnik for TASS]

[Text] Kiev September 2 TASS—The Ukrainian parliament discussed on Thursday [2 September] a referendum on confidence in President Leonid Kravchuk and the present Supreme Soviet.

The tone was set by parliament Chairman Ivan Plyushch who said that the parliament cannot adjourn until this question is resolved. After long debates over the date of the referendum and its expediency, the floor was taken by head of the Central Electoral Commission Alexander Lavrinovich.

He denied accusations that the commission is not ready for the referendum, adding that it had completed all preparatory work, including necessary documents. He said, however, that the commission cannot continue work because the parliament has not approved the form of ballot papers so far. He added that the commission had sent the parliament a request to this effect on July 29.

The parliament also approved the national programme of elimination of the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster and social support for its victims in 1994-1995 and up to the year 2000. The session adopted a law on the state notary service and passed amendments to the law on the Ukrainian passport.

Miners Demand Resignations if No Referendum

LD0209210793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1919 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Makeyevka (Donetsk region) September 2 TASS—Representatives of the executive bureaus of the Independent Mining Trade Union and of the territorial committees of the Ukraine's Coal Industry Trade Union, grouping 19 coal-mining and mine-building amalgamations, met on Thursday to discuss the situation in mining labour collectives in connection with the behaviour of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and the Supreme Soviet, which ignore persistent demands to hold a people's vote of confidence in them.

Participants in the meeting passed a resolution saying "in case a referendum scheduled for September 26, 1993, is not held, a resignation of President Kravchuk and the Supreme Soviet remains the only reasonable way out of the current crisis". The document also calls upon the Ukrainian people to support the miners' demands and to stage a general political action of protest unless these demands are satisfied.

Parties Propose Convening Constitutional Assembly

AU0209185093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 31 Aug 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Parties Propose That a Constitutional Assembly Be Convened"]

[Text] Eight parties—Ukrainian Republican, Democratic, Constitutional Democratic, Liberal Democratic, National Conservative, Social Democratic, the "Green" Party, and the Party of Democratic Revival issued a joint statement-initiative on convening a constitutional

(constituent) assembly. In the opinion of the parties, this new body must adopt Ukraine's new constitution. The parties have proposed that, in order to convene the assembly, an act on electing a constitutional assembly be adopted through an all- Ukrainian referendum. In accordance with the act, in addition to the main law, the assembly must adopt three constitutional laws on regulating the work of government bodies and a law on the election system; it must also elect the constitutional court and appoint a date for elections to the new parliament. The parties believe that the president must initiate elections to the constitutional assembly by his edict and that elections themselves must be held at multi- mandate polling stations in accordance with the principle of proportional representation. Representatives of the present power at all levels cannot become members of the constitutional assembly and these members must not run for the new parliament. The constitutional assembly must not function longer than six months.

Commentary Views Implications of Pynzenyk's Resignation

AU0209163393 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 31 Aug 93 p 1

[Commentary by Volodymyr Oliynyk, head of the Editorial Board's economics section: "Vice Premier Viktor Pynzenyk Resigns. People's Deputy Viktor Pynzenyk Does Not Lay Down His Arms"]

[Text] **On Saturday, 28 August, at the National Press Club, Vice Premier Viktor Pynzenyk held a news conference. Once again, he explained the reasons for his resignation to Ukrainian and foreign journalists.**

Having repeated, almost word for word, the main points of his televised speech, Viktor Pynzenyk said that it was urgently necessary to change the attitude of the Ukrainian authorities toward economic reforms. Otherwise, we are not only facing a cold winter, but also a total catastrophe of the state.

In his opinion, it is necessary to create a foundation for the activity of reformers in "conditions of economic dictatorship," when "decisions will not be adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers, but by a small group of five or six professionals from the Cabinet, a group that will make decisions two or three hours after a question or problem arises."

At the same time, Viktor Pynzenyk is in favor of the existence of a parliament, but he also proposes that new elections to all levels of power be conducted without delay. Viktor Pynzenyk does not believe that the present government, in which there still remain several educated reformers, is capable of improving the economic situation. Nor does he believe that the next meeting of the Presidium of the Cabinet of Ministers will approve the package of reforms prepared by him prior to his resignation.

When asked by journalists how the prime minister reacted to his resignation and whether the vice premier had spoken to the Ukrainian president about the problems within the Cabinet, Pynzenyk answered that the premier was not pleased with his resignation statement, and, as regards Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, he had even earlier proposed that the members of the Cabinet of Ministers themselves sort out their problems, because he did not find it expedient to make personnel changes to Kuchma's team.

Despite his resignation statement, Pynzenyk, who, as is known, has not given up his seat in parliament, is not going, he said, to lay down his arms.

Our commentary

In the opinion of the experts, the resignation of Vice Premier Pynzenyk is the last sign for Leonid Kuchma's government that it is time to make a decision. It is unlikely that the government will make any economic transformations in the way of reforms, now that the last Mohican-reformer has left Leonid Kuchma's camp. This fragile balance of forces has been destroyed to such an extent that it promises nothing good for the government.

Edict Forbids Official Trips Abroad at Host's Expense

AU0309093093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 1 Sep 93 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Official Trips Abroad by Officials of State Executive Power Bodies" issued in Kiev on 28 August]

[Text] In order to regulate trips abroad by officials of the state executive power and to prevent the abuse of official status, I resolve as follows:

1. To determine that official trips abroad by representatives of the state executive power—members of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, the Ukrainian Presidential Administration, the apparatus of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, ministries, other central organs of state executive power, and local state administrations—at the expense of the receiving side or at the expense of enterprises, institutions, or organizations of Ukraine or foreign states or private persons are forbidden.

This rule does not apply to those cases when officials go on business trips to international organizations in accordance with Ukraine's international agreements or by agreement between organs of Ukraine's state executive power and corresponding organs of foreign states.

2. It is recommended that representatives of organs of state executive power refrain from going abroad on private business at the expense of the receiving side, enterprises, institutions, or organizations of Ukraine or foreign states or private persons.

[Signed] Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk
[Dated] Kiev, 28 August 1993

Belarus

U.S. Ambassador on Shushkevich's U.S. Visit

WS0209142893 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 4

[Interview with U.S. Ambassador David Swartz by Nikolay Shcherbachenya; place and date not given: "United States Is Going To Cooperate With Belarus Not Only Today, but Tomorrow and the Day After as Well"]

[Text] [Shcherbachenya] How does the United States assess Chairman Shushkevich's visit to the United States?

[Swartz] I want to underline that Stanislav Shushkevich was the first CIS leader and your delegation was the first CIS governmental delegation invited to visit the United States by the new U.S. Administration. Although President Clinton met Russian President Yeltsin before Shushkevich's visit, this happened in Vancouver and not Washington.

The invitation was a symbol of U.S. recognition of Belarusian foreign policy that has brought about the adoption of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and Belarusian fidelity to neutrality and nonnuclear status; the domestic policy of Belarus has been aimed at safeguarding market reforms and democracy. These are the factors that prompted the U.S. Administration to invite the Belarusian leader to visit.

[Shcherbachenya] Nonetheless, the press release sent by the embassy to RESPUBLIKA following the visit made no mention of the first Belarusian-U.S. summit. How can you account for this?

[Swartz] I cannot answer that question because I was not in Minsk at that time, and I do not know how this happened. I can ensure you that my country attaches the utmost importance to the meeting between our President and Mr. Shushkevich. If there had been any confusion, believe me, there were no political motivations. I repeat, this was a very important meeting.

[Shcherbachenya] I would like to hear your personal evaluation of the summit.

[Swartz] In general terms, we view this visit as a sign of our official acknowledgement of the steps undertaken by Belarus a couple of years ago.

One can hear voices claiming that having received what it wanted, the United States will soon forget about Belarus. This is not true.

One of the main objectives of our policy is to persuade Belarus of our serious intentions in the course of top-level contacts. We want to demonstrate that we are interested in seeing your sovereign neutral Republic on its feet again. This is not a momentary interest, the situation will be the same tomorrow and the day after.

What testifies to this? First of all, there are the agreements signed in Washington in the spheres of export control, environment, and conversion. Take conversion, for instance. The process stipulates reshaping your military potential for peaceful purposes and involves construction of housing for officers and noncommissioned officers. I want to underline that we do not have similar agreements with any other CIS state.

This is the answer to your question. In my opinion, our steps indubitably demonstrate our predilection for long-term cooperation.

[Shcherbachenya] How was Stanislav Shushkevich's visit received in U.S. business circles? Do you think that the visit will initiate a sudden flow of American capital to help reshape the Belarusian economy?

[Swartz] I believe that you can expect a sudden flow of capital only after Belarus privatizes its state-controlled industries. The previous Supreme Soviet session created prerequisites for successful privatization. I mean the laws on land and privatizing the national sector. Implementing these laws is a separate issue.

I think that U.S. industrialists are following developments in Belarus and other newly independent states with the utmost attention. This was confirmed at the conference held at the Belarusian Embassy in Washington. In my opinion, Belarusians must make decisive steps toward a market economy and then, I am sure, U.S. business circles will meet them halfway. Until now, there have been a lot of American investments in joint Belarusian-U.S. enterprises. This process will continue. However, for direct investments Belarus will have to carry out privatization. By the way, we are eager to sign a bilateral treaty on protecting investments, but, unfortunately, we failed to do this during the recent visit.

[Shcherbachenya] Could the complex political situation in the Republic be the source of your businessmen's indecisiveness?

[Swartz] I think the political situation in your country is your own affair, and we are not going to interfere, although time and again attempts are made to accuse us of such interference. With regard to Belarus, I want point out that if the law-making process continues to develop peacefully, if the government works efficiently to implement laws adopted by the legislature, and if all these actions meet the demands of the market, stimulate foreign investment, and grant their security, in this case, political disputes among separate politicians will hardly hamper the flow of foreign investment.

[Shcherbachenya] According to members of our delegation, President Clinton said that his respect for Belarus and its leader grew after the meeting with Stanislav Shushkevich. What did the President mean by that statement?

[Swartz] While expressing his opinion about Belarus and its leader, the President meant the steps made by your

country as distinct from actions of certain other nuclear powers in the same region. The chance to meet the Belarusian leadership in person permitted President Clinton to see for himself that your state has, indeed, chosen the strategy of reform and profound change.

[Shcherbachenya] How serious are prospects for developing Belarusian-U.S. relations initiated during the visit? What concrete steps can be expected in the immediate future?

[Swartz] First of all, we will be implementing all the existing treaties and agreements. These, as I have said, are very relevant and will produce results for the Belarusian people. With regard to economic relations, I am eager to help reach an agreement on the protection of investments. We would also like to sign an agreement on avoiding double taxation. As far as I know, the Belarusian side is also interested in this.

Finally, we would like to carry out a Peace Corps project focused on private entrepreneurship.

With regard to international financial organizations, including the IMF, the International Bank for Economic Cooperation, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, I am sure that they will prolong their financial aid to Belarus this fall. Our state is ready to grant Belarus assistance within the framework of these organizations and to continue shipments of medicine. There are agreements on developing useful contacts in the military sphere. We will also continue the experiment on growing rape in Chernobyl- damaged areas and processing it for the production of radioactive- free diesel fuel.

This is not a complete account of our intentions. However, even the enumerated issues shed light on U.S. intentions to cooperate with Belarus, not only today, but tomorrow and the day after as well.

Interior Ministry Investigating Bombing in Minsk

WS0309073893 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 23 Aug 93 p 1

[Press release from the Belarusian Interior Ministry]

[Text] The media are continuing to comment on the bomb that exploded in Minsk's Independence Square earlier this month. With reference to "experts from competent agencies, who conducted an examination," the BELINFORM news agency released information alleging that the explosion could have been caused by a "Shmel" or "Mukha" mortar rocket.

The Russian newspaper "PRAVDA" went even farther than BELINFORM in its speculations on the explosion. Its report was reprinted by RESPUBLIKA. According to its version, this action was staged by members of the Belarusian Association of Servicemen. Yet again, references were made to "competent sources" and the investigation that was supposedly focusing on this version of what happened.

The press service of the Belarusian Interior Ministry is empowered to declare, with reference to Militia Colonel Yryy Zakharenka, chief of investigation at the Belarusian Interior Ministry, that the following facts have been established as a result of a thorough examination. The explosive charge, which consisted of agents manufactured by the defense industry before 1938, was planted by criminals in a bush in Independence Square. No bomb fragments have been found at the crime scene nor have fragment marks been found in the explosion area. No one was killed or injured. On 18 August, an individual identifying himself as Mzhyslav Mazhayskiy, spokesman for the left-wing Party of Justice, called the militia's emergency number (02) twice from a telephone booth and claimed responsibility for the explosion. The party operates illegally and has its headquarters in St. Petersburg. The party's prime goal is to restore the former Soviet Union, and its members are ready to fight for this cause by force of arms. In the telephone statement, Mzhyslav Mazhayskiy declared that similar actions would be carried out in the future until the present leadership steers the Republic toward the restoration of a single state, the USSR, and stops its so-called policy of genocide against the people.

This case is investigated by the Investigative Committee at the Belarusian Interior Ministry.

Moldova

General Lebed on Russian Withdrawal From Dniester

LD0209231693 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1953 GMT 2 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At today's rally, Dniester region inhabitants once again confirmed their striving to live in friendship and to cooperate with all neighbors near and far, including with Moldova, within which they are prepared to remain if the proposal on a confederative structure for Moldova is to be accepted. People here are waiting with great interest for the results of yesterday's talks in Moscow between Boris Yeltsin and Mircea Snegur.

However, in an exclusive interview for Ostankino television, General Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, said today that he has no information on the latest agreement on withdrawing his army from the Dniester region.

According to the POSTFACTUM agency, General Lebed made other statements as well. He expressed the opinion that recognition of the Dniester Republic is a

matter of time. As the general put it, Soviet Russia was not recognized for 10 years either. That was a POST-FACTUM agency item.

Armed Forces Day Celebrated; Budget Problems Highlighted

LD0309094793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0916 GMT 3 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau September 3 TASS—On Friday [3 September] Moldova for the first time celebrates the republic's Armed Forces Day. Exactly two years ago President Mircea Snegur signed a decree on the creation of Moldova's own Army.

Pavel Kryange, Moldovan minister of defence, told journalists today that over the period about 3,000 commissioned and non-commissioned officers returned to their native land from the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union. It is with their help that the republic created efficient motorised-infantry, artillery and air defence units that are prepared to accomplish combat missions to defend the fatherland, the minister said.

There are mixed reactions to the creation of the republic's own Army in Moldova which is living through a dramatic period of economic recession. Some people argue that the republic has Europe's smallest military budget and that an Army is essential as the attribute of a sovereign state.

Others believe that small Armed Forces are unable to accomplish tasks of defending from an outside enemy and that to maintain them is a backbreaking burden for the crippled economy. Only a reasonable foreign policy, in their view, can ensure security.

While politicians argue, the Armed Forces of Moldova have experienced personnel cuts and reorganisation aimed at reducing Army maintenance costs.

Foreign Minister Evaluates Advance Toward Democracy

AU0309082893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1358 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 2/9/1993—From a province of the former Soviet Empire, the Republic of Moldova has evolved to an independent state that has chosen democracy and free economy, was the statement made by Moldova's Foreign Minister Nicolae Tiu for Radio Chisinau and quoted by Bucharest daily MERIDIAN.

The acknowledgement of the Republic of Moldova, formally and not just for convenience, by the international community is a matter of time and it depends not only on diplomats and diplomacy, it also hangs on the country's economic and political situation, on its internal stability, the Moldovan foreign minister assessed.

Two years ago, he said, when Moldova proclaimed its independence on 27 August, the country had no career diplomats of its own to plead for the new state in the wide world and remembered that on his visits to Italy, Great Britain and the United States where he met several foreign ministers, he found that "few were those who then knew about the existence of Moldova and of how difficult its situation was." Since then, the young state has formed a diplomatic corps, initiated bilateral relations with other states and acted in the spirit of "multilateral diplomacy" by integrating in the CSCE, the IMF, the World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and others.

Tajikistan

Armed Provocations From Afghanistan Continue

LD0209113693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 2 TASS—Armed provocations from Afghanistan continue at the Pyandzh section of the Tajik-Afghan border. According to military sources, a small armed group of Tajik opposition again tried to crosss the border in the area of the 12th border post on Wednesday evening [1 September].

Gunmen fled after a resolute rebuff by Russian border guards.

Relative calm remains at other sections of the Tajik-Afghan border. However, officers from the headquarters of Russian border troops in Tajikistan do not preclude a chance of new armed provocations.

Rabbani Optimism on Returning Soviet POW's Questionable

PM0209142193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Sep 93 p 1

[Igor Lenskiy report: "Dialogue to Sound of Firefights"]

[Text] The five released border guards are currently in quarantine in a Dushanbe hospital. They may have returned from Kabul wrapped in Afghan blankets, but they are alive and well. According to Major Sergey Petukhov, they had been treated well and had not been harmed. In conversation with this PRAVDA correspondent a Tajik Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the official Afghan authorities released the hostages as soon as the Tajik state delegation arrived and without imposing any preconditions.

I. Rakhmonov raised the question in Kabul of the Soviet POW's left in Afghanistan from previous times.

Despite I. Rakhmonov's optimistic tone on his return from Kabul, we can hardly talk of any radical shifts in Tajik-Afghan relations. There is still doubt about President B. Rabbani's ability to influence the situation on the border—the day the visit ended saw renewed unrest there and the death of a Russian border guard, nor is there any agreement within the Afghan leadership itself—for instance, according to news agency reports, there has been fierce fighting in Qandahar (south of Kabul) between detachments subordinate to President B. Rabbani and gunmen loyal to Prime Minister G. Hekmatyar.

B. Rabbani plans a return visit to Dushanbe by 20 September. During the visit the sides propose to conclude preparations on a treaty of friendship and cooperation, but the CIS troops stationed on the Tajik-Afghan border should remain vigilant—the inviolability of the border can only be guaranteed by force of arms.

Russian General in Tajikistan on Fact-Finding Mission

MK0209101493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Sep 93 p 3

[Unattributed report interview with Colonel General Boris Pyankov, representative of the Russian Defense Ministry in Tajikistan on 31 August under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Tajikistan"]

[Text] On 31 August, your NEGA correspondent interviewed Colonel General Boris Pyankov, representative of the Russian Defense Ministry, who arrived in Tajikistan. "I came to Tajikistan with a group of generals and officers to carefully assess the situation once again and to make a forecast as to how events will unfold in the short run, and also to discuss with the republic's leaders all matters regarding the deployment of coalition defense forces," Pyankov said. The general believes his chief duty will be to facilitate by all means available the strengthening of the protection of Tajikistan's outer border. This will directly determine whether peace is restored on war-torn Tajik soil. All conclusions drawn during this mission to Tajikistan will be reported to the Council of Defense Ministers and also to the CIS heads of state who signed the collective security agreement. "This will take place at a regular meeting of the leaders of the Commonwealth countries on 7 September," Boris Pyankov said. "It is then that the definitive decision will be made, a decision on which will hinge the establishment of tranquility not only in Tajikistan, but also in a vast region of the CIS."

Turkmenistan

Russia's Grachev Visits, Signs Accord

PM0309102793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Vladimir Kuleshov report: "Russia and Turkmenistan in Full Accord on Military Questions"]

[Text] Ashgabat—As of 1 January 1994 Turkmenistan will assume virtually full responsibility for the financing and supply of all military units on the state's territory—that is one of the points in the agreement to expand military cooperation betwen Russia and Turkmenistan which has been signed in Ashgabat.

According to the laws of the Russian Federation, its military units and officer cadres may remain on the territory of other states until 31 December 1999. Thereafter officers, with the consent of the two countries' defense ministers and at their own request, may conclude a contract for service in the armed forces of Turkmenistan.

"We are planning to talk with the soldiers and officers in those Russian troop units serving here and try to persuade them not to be in a hurry to return to Russia in the near future because, for reasons which beyond the Defense Ministry's control, there is simply nowhere for them to go as a result of the massive withdrawal of troops from other territories," Pavel Grachev, Russian Defense Minister, said. "The situation in Turkmenia is calm and the attitude toward the Russian troops is good."

During the conversation between S. Niyazov, president of Turkmenistan, and P. Grachev, Russian defense minister, an accord was reached on Russian assistance in creating Turkmenistan's national army.

Niyazov Addresses Russian Servicemen in Ashgabat

LD0109230493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2000 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov has visited the first military institute to open in the republic, which has been founded on the basis of one of the troop units in Ashgabat.

Speaking to Russian servicemen, he said that an agreement on their status would be signed at the forthcoming talks with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and that all issues would be settled.

Inaugurates Opening of Military Institute

LD0209075393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2203 GMT 1 Sep 93

[By TURKMEN-PRESS correspondent for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Ashgabat, 2 Sep—The beginning of the new academic year in Turkmenistan was ushered in by the opening of the first military institute in the country's history. It will train officer cadres for Turkmenistan's national army.

The celebrations marking the event on Wednesday [1 September] were attended by Turkmen President Niyazov; members of the government; the ambassadors of the United States, Russia, China, and Turkey; the charges d'affaires of Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Romania, and other countries; and war veterans.

In a speech to the audience, Niyazov stressed that Turkmenistan was a peace-loving country that professed in international affairs the principle of positive neutrality and noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. Turkmenistan's military doctrine was purely defensive in nature, the president said. We shall remain true to that principle.

Uzbekistan

Russia's Grachev in Tashkent, Comments on Arms

LD0209220593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev arrived today in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. [passage omitted]

[Begin Grachev recording] Today we completed what one might call the final stage of the work by our experts, during which the elimination quotas for each state were determined. Everyone is satisfied with these quotas, and we are planning to eliminate within the agreed period, that is by the end of 1995, the quantity which was stated in 1990.

The only difficulty is the funds for the elimination of this equipment. At the same time, we cannot go on keeping the equipment in forests and marshes without anyone being in control of it, and we are being justly criticized for having our equipment scattered all over the place. Only such amounts of equipment should be retained as is necessary for the defense of any state, including Russia, whereas we have it in overabundance. [end recording]

Karimov Stresses Ties With Russia

LD0109203393 Moscow Osiankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Interview with President Islam Karimov by Sergey Medvedev in Uzbekistan; date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Medvedev] Celebrations of the main national festival continued in Uzbekistan today. [passage omitted]

[Karimov] The old home must not be destroyed before the new one has been built. What does this mean? This means that we are opposed to shock therapy, as it is called. The figures show that in 1992 the rate of decrease in production in the republic was 9.6 percent; in the first half of 1993 the rate of decrease was 3.6 percent; but in July the rate of increase, not decrease but increase, in production, was today somewhere around 11.2 percent.

[Medvedev, showing pre-1993 Russian bank note to Karimov] What is your opinion? How long will such notes be in circulation in your country and will you also be ejected from the ruble area?

[Karimov] Those people who live in Uzbekistan—the 2 million Russian-speaking population, people who consider that their ancient homeland is Russia—we only have to introduce our own currency and the very simple feeling arises that they are being torn away from their homeland. This is not to mention the thousands and thousands of problems that will arise between our states.

The spiritual links are very important to me. Those links which over very many centuries have been formed between Russia, the people of Russia and the people of Uzbekistan are very important to me.

Armenia

Karabakh Troops Said Withdrawing From Kubatlinskiy

NC0209174593 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1458 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, 2 Sep (ARMENPRES)—The cease-fire agreement was mostly observed today on the battlefronts of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR].

According to NKR Defense Army headquarters, in keeping with the declaration of Chairman of the NKR State Defense Committee Robert Kocharyan, the withdrawal of the NKR detachments from Kubatlinskiy Rayon back to their previous positions has begun.

Today a ceremonial meeting was held in Stepanakert commemorating the anniversary of the declaration of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

President's Statement on Troop Withdrawal Issued

NC0209161093 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1219 GMT 2 Sep 93

["Statement issued by President of the Armenian Republic Levon Ter-Petrosyan"—ARMENPRES headline]

[Text] Yerevan, 2 Sep (ARMENPRES)—A cease-fire agreement was concluded between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh at 1700 on 31 August 1993.

During the course of the negotiations held in the few days preceding the agreement, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] self- defense detachments, in repulsing the attacks by the Azerbaijani formations, launched counterstrikes in Kubatlinskiy Rayon.

In giving enormous importance to the signed agreement and considering the prospects of the dialogue envisaged for the establishment of a stable peace, the leadership of the Armenian Republic calls on the NKR leadership to immediately withdraw its forward detachments to the previous line of disengagement as a goodwill gesture and take strict measures against the violators of the agreement.

[Dated] 1 September 1993, Yerevan

Karabakh Statement Issued

NC0209162593 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1219 GMT 2 Sep 93

["Statement issued by Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic State Defense Committee"—ARMENPRES headline]

[Text] Yerevan, 2 Sep (ARMENPRES)—A cease-fire agreement was signed between Azerbaijan and the NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] at 1700 on 31 August 1993. It was also agreed to hold a meeting of the Azerbaijani and Nagorno-Karabakh leaders before 10 September.

The aforementioned agreement was signed at a time when the NKR Armed Forces, in resisting the attacks of the Kubatlinskiy detachments of the Azerbaijani Army against Gadrutskiy Rayon, were conducting operations for the destruction of the enemy's military positions.

In response to the appeal from the president of the Armenian Republic, fully sharing his concerns and assessment of the situation and cognizant of the real prospects of the ongoing dialogue—which could and should assist the peace-making process—the NKR leadership has ordered its forces to immediately withdraw from the Khodzhik- Khanlyk-Chereli line and return to their previous positions.

In showing goodwill by withdrawing from more than 30 settlements in Kubatlinskiy Rayon, including the rayon center, and intending to strictly abide by the agreement, the NKR leadership in its turn calls on the Azerbaijani leadership to refrain from actions that might undermine the positive process.

[Dated] 1 September 1993, Stepanakert

Azerbaijan

National Security Ministry on Movement by Iranian Units

NC0209120893 Baku TURAN in English 1120 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 2 (TURAN)—Press-centre of Ministry of National Security did not confirm the statements of foreign mass media, that Iranian armed units had crossed south-western regions of Azerbaijan, where Armenian Army launched its advance.

Earlier Armenian sources stated, that armed units, having crossed Iranian-Azerbaijan board, took the positions in Fizulinskiy and Zangelanskiy regions of Azerbaijan.

Yesterday Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia expressed its concern about the danger of expanding of this conflict in this region and involving of neighbouring states in it.

Official on Iranian Border Incursion

LD0209143193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow September 2 TASS—Preparations are under way for the withdrawal of Nagorno-Karabakh troops from the Kubatly District of Azerbaijan, according to Robert Kocharyan, head of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defence Committee.

He said, however, that because of the absence of the mechanism of troop withdrawal and lack of coordination with the Azeri side "the re-location of units of the Nagorno-Karabakh Army has caused local clashes with the Azeri National Army."

Commenting on a Russian Foreign Ministry official's statements that Iranian armed groups had crossed the Azeri border under the pretext of guarding a water reservoir and other border facilities, Kocharyan said that "crossings of the border were visually registered and the Persian language was spoken in intercepted radio conversations. However there were no contacts with the armed Iranians."

Armenia Reports Iranian Forces in Nakhichevan

LD0209150293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 2 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Mikhail Osokin] Reports appeared in the Armenian press today to the effect that Iranian Army subunits had crossed the border with Nakhichevan Oblast in Azerbaijan and seized control of a water reservoir situated there.

The NEGA agency reports, quoting its own sources, that this information is correct. According to these reports, Tehran explains its actions by referring to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the escalation of which may damage the facility which is of great importance for the economy of Iran.

The NEGA correspondent in Yerevan has learned that the site of the Nakhichevan water reservoir and the dam, built under the USSR, has now been taken under the control of the units of Iranian troops. Water was shared equally between the USSR and Iran. We have, so far, no confirmation of any of this from other sources. Tehran has already repeatedly voiced concern in connection with the battles between Armenia and Azerbaijan near its borders, and reports that Iranian armed groups crossed into Azerbaijan under the pretext of protecting various facilities have already appeared before.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has already expressed its concern regarding reports of this kind, and stated that such reports merely exacerbate the atmosphere, in a situation in which particular circumspection and even-handedness of approaches is needed to settle the conflict and put a halt to the battles.

Official Denies Iranian Army on Territory

LD0209145493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1416 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Sep—There are no Iranian forces on the territory of Azerbaijan. Reports in some of the mass media about the presence of units of the Iranian Army on Azerbaijani territory are not in accord with reality. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this today by Rafael Guseynov, deputy plenipotentiary representative of the Azerbaijani republic in the Russian Federation. He was citing facts received by the prime minister's office.

Nakhichevan Chiefs Deny Iranian Presence

LD0209194893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1519 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Sep—Reports that sub-units of Iranian troops crossed the Azerbaijan border have been described as fabrications by the interior minister and the chairman of the National Security Committee of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, who were contacted by telephone this evening by an ITAR-TASS correspondent. Both leaders of power structures said that following the appearance of the first reports on this, they travelled to the area in question. The situation on the border was calm, and no movement of armed formations was to be seen.

Commander Says Rumors 'Unfounded'

NC0209173693 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1526 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, 2 Sep (AZERTAC)—In a statement to reporters today, Major General Iskender Allakhverdiyev, the commander of the Azerbaijani border troops and the first deputy minister of national security, said that rumors disseminated by certain mass media that the Iranian Armed Forces have crossed into Azerbaijan are unfounded.

In sharing the anxiety of the neighboring republic at the continuation of the military operations close to the Iranian-Azerbaijani border, he informed the reporters that a concentration of hardware and troops have been observed on Iranian territory close to the border.

The commander of the border troops has appealed to all the peace- loving nations to intervene and halt the military operations and the advance of the Armenian troops toward Azerbaijan's border with Iran.

Allakhverdiyev said that the Armenian units are 2 to 5 kilometers from the Azerbaijani-Iranian border [words indistinct] and some border guards, who are coming under heavy shelling, have been forced to defend themselves.

The border troops commander noted that some 50,000 refugees—among them women, children, and elderly—threatened by the Armenian aggression have taken shelter near the border guards.

Armenia Confirms Iran's Incursion

NC0209195393 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 2 Sep 93 p 14

[Irfan Sapmaz and Tigran Nazaryan report: Iran's Troops Enter Into Azerbaijan"]

[Excerpts] It has been reported that Iran's military units have crossed into Azerbaijan and advanced up to 20 km. Iran's action came after the Armenian military forces occupied Azerbaijan's Kubatlinskiy Rayon center and directed their attacks on Zangelanskiy Rayon with the support of armored vehicles. It has also been reported that the Iranian units have advanced up to Zangelan and Kubatly. [passage omitted]

Armenia Confirms Iran's Incursion

The Armenian Ministry of Defense has confirmed Iran's incursion into Zangelanskiy Rayon. In a statement to HURRIYET yesterday, Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan said that the military units of the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security and not the Ministry of Defense have entered the area and advanced 20 km into Azerbaijan. Papazyan also said that the Iranian units have set up camps and hoisted Iranian flags. Papazyan asserted that Armenia has asked Iran for an official explanation. However, he declined to comment on the strength of the Iranian force in Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Armenian Intelligence: The First Step

Armenian intelligence officials have reported that the incursion of Iran's units into Azerbaijan is a part of an exercise in preparation for a possible operation. In a statement to HURRIYET in Yerevan, the intelligence officials, who have preferred to remain anonymous, claimed that Iran has planned a wide-scale operation in Azerbaijan in the near future and said that several Iranian units have entered that Republic on a reconnaissance mission.

Stressing that the Iranian troops may withdraw from Azerbaijan, the officials asserted: "However, a wide-scale operation may be launched later."

Armenian 'Concentration' in Zangelanskiy Region

NC0209121693 Baku TURAN in English 1120 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 2 (TURAN)—As Press-Centre of Azerbaijan Defense Ministry reports, yesterday and this morning concentration of Armenian forces was observed. Zangelanskiy is the last region in the southwest of Azerbaijan that Armenian forces have not seize.

At present armoured carriers and infantry units of Armenian Armed Forces are taking the positions along the whole perimeter of Zangelanskiy board from Armenian side as well as from occupied the day before Kubatlinskiy region of Azerbaijan.

During the last night enemy bombarded the region centre from Armenian territory. There are killed and wounded among peaceful population.

The same source reports, that last night Armenian forces started to move to Iranian board from the territory of seized Dzhebrail. According to information for 9 o clock in the morning September 2, Armenian armed units were within the distance of 1.5-2 km from Araks river.

Information Center Updates Situation

NC0209192493 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center communique on 2 September is as follows:

The situation in our Republic's southwestern areas is tense. The enemy pounded the residential areas close to Zangelanskiy Rayon's border with Armenia with artillery units last night. Kollukyshlak in Zangelanskiy Rayon was shelled with mortars from Armenia's Kapanskiy Rayon at 1700 today.

Fighting has flared up again in the southern part of Dzhebrailskiy Rayon. The enemy units in the occupied areas in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon tried to advance on (Chavdar) and Khadru last night. Our troops, who fought to defend the towns, succeeded in obstructing the enemy's advance by daybreak.

Maden in Kazakhskiy Rayon and Agdam in Tauzskiy Rayon were intermittently shelled with artillery from Armenia today.

Defense Ministry on Cease-Fire Violations

LD0209211893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2041 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Gekchekhanum Tagiyeva]

[Text] Baku September 3 TASS—Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry has accused Armenia of violating a ceasefire agreement which was due to come into force on Thursday [2 September].

The ministry said Armenian forces shelled several villages in the Zangelan district of Azerbaijan from military bases in the Kafan district of Armenia. Armenian troops are massing along the border with the Zangelan Kubatly districts, it said.

Late on Thursday Armenian forces made another attempt to advance towards the Azerbaijani-Iranian border through the territory of the Dzhebrail district of Azerbaijan. Although the attack was rebuffed near the village of Kavdar, Armenian troops are staying 1.5-2 kilometers away from the border with Iran, the ministry said.

Guseynov Military Failure Could Spell More Power for Aliyev

PM0209131393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 31 Aug 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Iskandaryan report: "Aliyev's Power Is Strengthened. A Referendum on Confidence in Albulfaz Elchibey Has Been Held in Azerbaijan"]

[Text] According to the preliminary statistics, more than 90 percent of the republic's inhabitants having the right to vote took part in the ballot. In the opinion of experts, a majority of Azerbaijan's inhabitants declined to express confidence in the ex-president. This is evidence that the People's Front has once and for all lost its standing.

Meanwhile, the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijan front has once more intensified. Karabakh troops have seized with comparatively little bloodshed two rayon centers in Azerbaijan situated south of Nagorno-Karabakh—Fizuli and Dzhebrail. This is not surprising: The internal squabbling in Azerbaijan by no means facilitates the consolidation of society that is essential in war conditions. So far the attempts of the new leader, Geydar Aliyev, on the one hand to legitimize his power by means of an anti-Elchibey referendum, and on the other to make this power real by filling state structures with his own proteges, have been successful. At the very least, the "insurrection" of the rebel Colonel Gumbatov in southern Azerbaijan has been crushed fairly decisively.

Aliyev exploited the fact that Gumbatov acted under separatist slogans of proclaiming the "Talysh-Mugan Republic" in the zone of Azerbaijan's subtropics (the Talysh are a small, Persian-speaking people living on the Azerbaijan-Iran border). The obvious danger in the context of the ongoing Karabakh war connected with the emergence of yet another formation claiming sovereignty on Azerbaijani territory helped Geydar Aliyev to turn public opinion against the "Azerbaijan Ardzinba." At the same time, Aliyev neutralized Rakhim Gaziyev, the former defense minister under Elchibey, by accusing him of links with Gumbatov.

There is, however, also another influential military man assisting Aliyev to strengthen his power—General Surat Guseynov, an Azerbaijan national hero. His future will now, all the signs suggest, depend to a large degree on the situation in the region of combat operations. After the seizure of Fizuli, Armenians virtually reached the Iranian border, without, however, making the final step. Strictly speaking, to reach the border right now would be no great task for the Karabakh forces, but—in addition to the political obstacles being created by Iran, which has already declared the Karabakh forces the aggressors—there is also a military obstacle. Right by the border runs the last road out of the huge "pocket" consisting of two rayons of Azerbaijan—Kubatlinskiy and Zangelanskiy—squeezed between Karabakh and Armenia. Obviously, the Armenians want to leave the road open for the departure of units of the Azerbaijani Army and the remnants of the civilian population of the two rayons.

It is not only this territory that is under threat, but also the reputation of Gen. Guseynov. The popular "invincible" general will become more vulnerable as a political figure if the Azerbaijani Army under his command is unable to hold on to Kubatlinskiy and Zangelanskiy Rayons. Then far more power could be concentrated in G. Aliyev's hands: As of today all the power ministries are subordinate to Surat Guseynov. The essence of this situation is clear to everyone. Bitter fighting has been raging for over four days on the approach roads to Kabutly. Azerbaijanis are not entering the corridor left by the Armenian Army: They are Surat's people.

National Assembly Discusses Election, Appointments

NC0309092593

[Editorial Report] Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri resumed its live coverage of the Azerbaijani National Assembly session, which reconvened at 1800 GMT on 1 September following a recess after it adopted a resolution on a referendum.

Deputies discussed the presidential election and proposed a date of 3 October. An unidentified deputy read out the resolution in which he criticized the Elchibey administration and narrated the events leading to the referendum. The resolution reads as follows:

"to consolidate Azerbaijani statehood under the existing conditions;

"to defend the republic's territorial integrity and its national interests; and

"to ensure the unity of the people;

"the Azerbaijani Republic National Assembly decides:

"1. In line with Article (121/7) of the Azerbaijani Constitution and Article 6 of the Azerbaijani law on electing the president of the Republic, the election for the president of the Azerbaijani Republic has been set for 3 October 1993.

"2. The powers of the Central Election Committee for the presidential election should be executed by the Central Election Committee established for the election of the people's deputies for the 13th session.

"3. The Central Election Committee for the election of the Azerbaijan Republic people's deputies should be instructed to create polling stations on the territory of the republic, in the rayons, cities, and city rayons to organize and hold presidential elections."

Supreme Soviet Chairman Geydar Aliyev put the resolution to the vote and it was adopted.

Deputies introduced addenda, which were adopted as a separate resolution. They mostly concerned detailed

regulations on procedures concerning candidates' nominations. One of the points was: "Any citizen able to fully function" can stand for the post of president provided he gets the support of at least 20,000 people.

Tofik Gasymov argued that such amendments, including the substitution of the age limit with the phrase "a person able to function," should have been first introduced in the Constitution and then included in the resolution. Aliyev retorted, saying the resolution is a mere amendment to the election law and needs no constitutional amendment.

Another deputy proposed deleting the age limit of 65 from the Constitution, because it goes against human rights and international law. Aliyev put this to the vote and the proposal was adopted. While the new amendment mentioned no upper age limit, it set a minimum age limit for a presidential candidate of 35.

Here, Aliyev said, laughing: "I want to state that this resolution on age protects human rights, but I would not like it to protect my rights alone. Essentially, it means restoring the rights of people over 65. Many people in Azerbaijan are over 65 and their rights have hitherto been violated."

Aliyev's proposal that Ali Ahmedoglu Masimov be relieved as economy minister and first deputy prime minister was adopted. His proposal that Samed Shahbaz ogly Sadykov replace him was adopted.

His proposal to relieve Kamil Neriman ogly Veliyev as deputy prime minister was also adopted.

After a long digression on the deplorable cultural situation, Aliyev proposed appointing Elchin Ilyes ogly Efendi as deputy prime minister for cultural affairs. Again, his proposal was adopted.

After noting that Tofik Gasymov was removed as foreign minister some time ago, Aliyev went on to criticize the Foreign Ministry for being disorganized. He proposed Gasan Gasanov as foreign minister and this was adopted.

Noting there was no successor to the dismissed Dadash Rzayev as defense minister and that frequent changes in the post relate to the deplorable situation in the Army, Aliyev proposed Major General Mamedov Mamedrafi Ismailogly as defense minister. Aliyev said he served in the Soviet Army and the Russian Army from 1962. Called to the podium, the new defense minister spoke in Russian, because his Azeri is poor. Aliyev's proposal was adopted.

Aliyev proposed amalgamating the Higher Education and Education [Enlightenment] Ministries and this was adopted. Recalling that a recent decree relieved Firuddin Gadzhiyev as education minister, Aliyev's request to the Assembly to confirm the decree was granted. His proposal to replace Gadzhiyev by Lidiya Rasulova was adopted.

Aliyev proposed removing Dzhivanshir Eyub ogly Abdullayev as president of Azerbaijan's National Bank and this too was adopted. Galib Abali ogly Agayev was named as his replacement.

The prosecutor general then addressed the session, asking it to support the decision to institute criminal proceedings against Rakhim Hasan ogly Gaziyev, the former defense minister and people's deputy, for his part in the insufficient defense of Shusha and Lachinskiy Rayons, which led to their occupation by the Armenian forces. The Parliament's Mandate and Ethics Committee chairman supported the proposal. A vote adopted it. Aliyev also supported the prosecutor general's proposal to institute criminal charges against Ihtiyar Shirinov, the people's deputy and former prosecutor general, and Deputy Nurettin Ekberov, who have been detained for two months in connection with the Ganja incidents. The proposal was adopted.

Announcing that deputies' immunity must be protected, Aliyev stated that no deputy should now be detained without the permission of the National Assembly. He promised to defend the deputies' rights and not to allow their unconstitutional detention. Aliyev said he had known nothing about [former Speaker] Isa Kamberov's imprisonment and, learning of it, exerted efforts for his release, but this does not mean Kamberov was free of blame for the Ganja incidents, he said. He should have been brought before the law, but there was no need to imprison him, Aliyev said, before declaring the session closed.

Aliyev on New Foreign Minister

LD0309085993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1518 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Natig Abdullayeva, ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 2 Sep—A new foreign minister does not mean a new foreign policy, this has always been determined by the state, acting President of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev noted, introducing the new head of the republic's foreign policy department, Gasan Gasanov, this afternoon. Confirmed in his post toward midnight Wednesday, he was until recently the Azerbaijani republic's permanent representative to the United Nations.

The new appointment, Geydar Aliyev believes, should be seen rather as an elevation of the level and the quality of Azerbaijani diplomacy. In his opinion, the former leadership of the republican Foreign Ministry did not meet these requirements. "It was more inclined to declaring various slogans about independence than carrying out an independent policy in the interests of an independent Azerbaijan," the head of state stressed.

At a meeting with diplomats, the need was stressed to improve the structure of the foreign policy department, the importance of training and placing qualified personnel, and of long-term work in the field of developing

mutually advantageous, equal, and diverse ties between Azerbaijan and the countries of the former USSR. In Geydar Aliyev's opinion, it is only by observing these and other conditions that Azerbaijani diplomacy can, as it should, become one of the important attributes of a sovereign state.

Replying to journalists' questions, the country's acting president said that he had received an invitation to the September meeting of the CIS heads of state, adding that he would probably take part in its work.

Regarding questions of a settlement to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, Geydar Aliyev stressed in reply to an ITAR-TASS correspondent, that he was in favor of a peaceful, political solution to it. He also said that during the 10-day truce achieved in the course of the contacts with the leadership of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, talks will be held, during the course of which he hopes that this process will be further extended. "A continuation of the talks in this direction will enable more stable principles to be found, on the basis of which peace in the region could be built," Geydar Aliyev believes.

Georgia

Parliament Holds Session 2 Sep, Discusses Bills

Members Voice Fears of Crisis

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian at 1300 GMT on 2 September broadcasts a 40-minute report on today's Georgian Parliament session that since 0600 GMT has been discussing the draft bill of the Cabinet of Ministers, which has led to debates.

Member of parliament [MP] Louisa Shakiashvili, makes a speech saying: "Some forces in parliament—I do not know who these forces are—are doing their best to ensure that parliament does not reach a decision on the Cabinet of Ministers today and that this country faces parliamentary deadlock. We will not allow you to do this."

Shakiashvili then says that there is no need to debate, stressing: "We all understand everything very well and we do not want to spell everything out. We demand that parliament does not go into deadlock, and in order to ensure that this does not happen, this is the best way out. I am categorically demanding that this issue be put to the vote."

MP Teimuraz Zhorzholiani, in his speech in parliament says: "You all know what the situation is like. There is a parliamentary crisis. Today, it can end with the failure of parliament, everyone knows it pretty well. Today, parliament may stop functioning. Under the present situation that has come to be in Georgia, you all realize what may follow parliament's failure. In fact, it will be a failure of the executive and legislative power and every politician must realize what the aftermath will be."

Zhorzholiani then suggests that parliament vote on the draft bill of the Cabinet of Ministers and "participate in saving the country."

Zurab Zhvania, leader of the Green Party, then makes a speech and says that he "does not agree with Zhorzholiani that parliament faces failure today. It is clear to everyone who is watching the session on television that parliament today is absolutely ready to adopt a new structure on the Cabinet of Ministers after a simple procedure. If we are talking about failure, then I am sorry, you know my feelings of reverence toward you. It will be a failure of the parliament speaker as we have been tramping the ground for such a long time to arrive at a simple decision."

Zhvania then addresses the speaker of parliament, saying: "Mr. Rcheulishvili, it is ludicrous to be talking about changes in regulations, we are discussing the draft bill now, a specific but otherwise normal bill, and we have discussed tens of such bills." He then speaks about the procedure of voting on a bill but the speaker disagrees with him. The draft bill has not yet been put to the vote. Debates continue in parliament.

Letter From Ioseliani Read

LD0209225893 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1650 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] Today the Georgian Parliament continued its work. At its routine sitting, Parliament began the discussion of a draft resolution on forming a new Cabinet of Ministers, as suggested by head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze.

At the afternoon sitting, a letter from Jaba Ioseliani was read. He is in Western Georgia at present. The letter, in particular, says that a new wave of revanchism in Georgia has put a question to members of Mkhedrioni armed units: either to step aside as an unofficial structure, or keep fighting along with all supporters of Georgia's territorial integrity. Mkhedrioni fighters are choosing the second option. Therefore, they are where it is hardest.

The letter says: We are confident that those politicians who call us an armed gang will be judged by Parliament, the Georgian people, and what is more important, by history.

National Democrats To Leave

LD0209215093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Today, a session of the Georgian Parliament continued. We are offering you a report by correspondent Rusudan Oniani.

[Oniani] Serials of extraordinary meetings at the Georgian Parliament continue. Today, debates resumed on the draft law on reconstructing the Cabinet of Ministers

submitted by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of Parliament and head of state. [passage omitted]

Many deputies demanded that a way be chosen leading to consensus, otherwise the work of the Parliament could end in collapse, and so it happened. The issue was wrecked by the National Democrats. This was not unexpected, because the National-Democrat faction had already voiced its major considerations on the draft law and it is intending to leave the Parliament.

Other information: Due to his visit to Western Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze was not present at today's sitting, so his opinion on this issue is not known to us. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze Arrives in Western Georgia

LD0209223493 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] As you know the situation in Samegrelo region has become critical. In this connection, Georgian Head Eduard Shevardnadze left for Western Georgia.

He has arrived in Ajara. In Kobuleti a meeting was held between Eduard Shevardnadze and Ajar Supreme Council chairman Aslan Abashidze. The situation in Georgia and in Samegrelo, in particular, was discussed and ways leading out of this situation were considered.

Eduard Shevardnadze granted an interview to Ajar TV.

Gamsakhurdia's Supporters Urge Him To Return to Power

LD0209135093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi September 2 TASS—Sixty two deputies supporting Georgian ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia held a session in western Georgia on Thursday to discuss "the current political situation."

The deputies called on the fugitive president who has been staying in the Chechen Republic since early 1992 to return to Georgia and resume as head of Georgian state.

However observers believe Gamsakhurdia is unlikely to return to Tbilisi. They vow that he could return only to Zugdidi, capital of the Georgian province of Mingrelia which refuses to recognise the present government and parliament. But even if he does so he would seize control only of this one province.

Gamsakhurdia Denies He Initiated Siege on Poti

LD0209150593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy September 2 TASS—Georgian ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia resolutely denied media reports saying that he had called upon his supporters in western Georgia to lay siege to the city of Poti stirring them to activity.

The fugitive president, staying in the capital of the Chechen Republic, told ITAR-TASS today that the rail road between Tbilisi and Poti is blocked by the "Mkhedrioni" paramilitary units. The aim of the blockade, according to Gamsakhurdia, is "to set the Georgian people against the legal authorities and to unleash a civil war in the republic".

No Fighting Reported in Samtredia, Poti

LD0209210093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] According to IBERIA-NEGA, the situation in western Georgia remains tense. Government troops, Mkhedrioni [armed units of the Georgian Rescue Corps], and the police are concentrated in Samtredia and Poti. It can be inferred that the government troops are gradually surrounding territory controlled by units supporting the former president, and headed by Vakhtang Kobalia.

There has been no fighting so far. The sides are in tactical opposition to one another.

In Poti, unloading of ships has been stopped. Some 120,000 tonnes of flour have accumulated in recent days. This is destined for Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

Military Equipment Leaves Abkhazia on Russian Ship

LD0209165293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Text] The CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY has been informed by the press center of the Georgian Armed Forces in Abkhazia that, after long negotiations, materiel belonging to the Georgian Armed Forces deployed in the Abkhazian conflict zone was eventually loaded onto a Russian landing ship. Today, the mentioned ship headed toward its point of destination. The equipment is being accompanied by Georgian specialists.

Lithuania

U.S. Role in Advancing Russian Withdrawal Noted

WS0309101493 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1401 GMT 2 Sep 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 3[illegible]2a]

[Text] Vilnius, Sep.2 (ELTA)—At a governmental reception, a respectful Lithuanian politician expressed gratefulness to U.S. ambassador Johnson for his support in the process of the Russian army pullout. According to RESPUBLIKA daily it should not come as a surprise since the ambassador's car could be seen several times at Seimas palace. U.S. role in the process is beyond any discussions. The Russian Premier Chernomyrdin is expecting huge credits from Washington. It is safe to assume that a telephone call between the two presidents was initiated by Mr. Yeltsin, not by Mr. Brazauskas, which would explain why members of Seimas foreign affairs committee learned about the army pullout from radio announcements. According to RESPUBLIKA, it also explains why Russians are not hasting to pass official decrees which would validate the pullout process; why should it demonstrate its loyalty to such small country as Lithuania or such power country as the United States. The legal decree is expected to be signed at the presidents' meeting in September. Now the two negotiating parties do not seem to be rushing to settle the question which not long ago was the main obstacle in the relations of the two countries.

Russian Supreme Soviet Delegation on Visit

LD0209104093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Report by Algirdas Usas]

[Text] A Russian Supreme Soviet delegation, led by Yevgeniy Abartsumov, the chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs and International Economic Relations, is visiting Lithuania.

At 0900, the delegation was received by the Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas. Journalists were informed about this meeting by Linas Linkevicius, the deputy chairman of the Seimas Foreign Affairs Committee. The Russian delegation conveyed congratulations on the occasion of the Army withdrawal, views were exchanged on the compensation of damages. Ceslovas Jursenas was basing himself on the results of the referendum, not figures, but the fact itself was stressed: There was occupation and annexation, therefore their consequences must be removed.

The Seimas chairman said that Lithuania was interested in the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia and Estonia. The meeting was attended by the Nikolay Obertyshev, Russian ambassador to Lithuania.

Then the delegation had a meeting with members of the Seimas Foreign Affairs Committee. During the afternoon they will be received by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

At 1600 there will be a news conference in the Seimas.

Ambartsumov Comments

LD0209162093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1200 GMT 2 Sep 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] We are talking to Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Russian Supreme Soviet. What is the purpose of your visit to Lithuania?

[Ambartsumov] We are concerned about the impasse, as stated by domestic and foreign press, in relations between Lithuania and Russia, relations that have always been very friendly. We have come here to help eliminate this impasse, which has already been partially removed by the troop withdrawal. [passage omitted] The purpose of our visit is also to invite the leadership of the Lithuanian parliament, Lithuanian parliamentarians, to pay a friendly return visit to Moscow. This invitation has been extended on behalf of Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov.

[Announcer] Now another question. Russian servicemen have left, but a large number, seven percent [as heard] of the Russian population remain. What kind of relations will there be in this sphere?

[Ambartsumov] As far as I understand, and this is our impression from the first of our official meetings with the Lithuanian Seimas Chairman Jursenas, that Lithuania will strive to pursue the policy with a benevolent attitude to the national minorities, to the Russian national minority. I think that conditions for the existence of the Russian minority will be normal. At the same time we asked to ease the housing situation for those few families that have been deprived of this, those who have been in the queue, and have then found themselves in a new, long queue. Moreover, Russia leaves behind substantial property, including houses, etc. I think that on the whole, as the situation looks today, Russian minority relations are much more successful than in Estonia and Latvia. [passage omitted]

Germany Boosts Economic, Cultural Influence in Kaliningrad

WS0209124693 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 10 Aug 93 No. 152 p 19

[Article by Sigitas Kuras, newspaper correspondent in Kaliningrad: "Prussia Is Reviving"]

[Text] Koenigsberg, Koenigsberg, Koenigsberg—in 1991 the Germans remembered their native city. Thousands of tourists poured into Kaliningrad. Its streets swarmed with vendors and those who like to look around.

Westerners also liked the scenario of a free economic zone. The inhabitants of Koenigsberg did not protest. Their 33 percent supported the plan devised to make capitalists leave their money there. The city is in ruins and it needs restoration.

Germans did not protest when Moscow announced that it would exempt foreign firms from taxes, including the profit tax, and its part that is transferred abroad. Businessmen were rubbing their hands with pleasure so were the politicians. German Chancellor H. Kohl stated to the entire world: "As for Kaliningrad Oblast, Germany observes the normative acts and protocols of the Helsinki agreement."

Presently Moscow and Kaliningrad are sending greetings to H. Kohl. Good-willed Moscow issued new instructions concerning Kaliningrad Oblast. The document provides a so-called holiday for taxes. This is a new term. It implies that German firms engaging in the production of building materials and the processing of agricultural produce are exempt from taxes for five years; those engaging in the production of goods in demand—for four years; and the rest—for three years. These terms are fantastic, and one must only act. It is here that Moscow brought its eggs to the wrong market and received the first blow below the belt....

However, the old and ruined city begins to feel the rage of the German capital. Private firms and joint ventures with Russians are emerging. They are numerous. About 200! Most windows of buses, cars, and stores glow with German signs: "We are with you!," "Russians—you are our brothers!" Russians have lost their wits. They did not realize that Germans are an extremely scrupulous and thrifty nation, and did not understand that Germans do not waste their money and energy without necessity.

In 1992, the oblast administration did not report to the world about its poor economic situation. No one needs this. The government officials are not some green youngsters. Among the existing 62 private firms seven belonged to Germans. Of all the investments in the Kaliningrad industry (560 billion rubles[R]), the German share accounted only for R100 billion.

However, Germans are very energetic and organized. They know how to do business. Firms are growing not by days, but by hours. The local administration is willingly registering them and expecting serious work. Nevertheless, a silent stranger transfers millions to quite different spheres: to hotels, cafes, restaurants and particularly to education and culture.

Germans like to follow a system. It is dominated now by cultural and educational activities. Some groundwork was necessary for this. The Germans' first big success was an agreement on humanitarian aid. It must be noted that such aid comes from the United States, the Netherlands, and from other countries. Even Thailand shipped 964 tonnes of such relief. However, Germans are the leaders. Humanitarian aid from Germany ran at 3,000 tonnes in 1992, accounting for 61 percent of all shipments. That is why Moscow's heart softened. However, Russia did not expect the Germans to throw themselves into cultural and educational activities rather than industry. Officially registered and unregistered cultural organizations emerged in the city and the oblast. Their dynamic work forced the local administration to become seriously interested in them. "Eintracht," "Pilan," "Tilsit," "Heim," and other organizations unfolded such "activities" that the authorities wanted to close them down.

Current accounts of different organizations at banks grew in proportion to the number of their new members. One could only wonder about rich sponsors who financed the establishment of new museums. An impressive 2 million German marks was allotted for the new "Prussia" museum. There were dozens of such examples. Goethe's society was set up. The house of German and Russian friendship was established with no difficulty. Even an organization of Russia's Germans "Franheit" that maintains permanent close contacts with former Prussia appeared in distant Moscow. The leaders of the oblast administration began to feel an immediate danger.

However, it is already too late. The Kaliningrad Oblast administration is helpless. There are some laws that prohibit registering Georgians, Armenians, Lithuanians, and Estonians in the oblast. However, these laws are not binding on Germans living in the CIS.

Germans may strike a double knockout on Moscow and the local administration in the near future. The moment is very favorable. The struggle for power is continuing in Russia's capital. Kaliningrad has been forgotten. The authorities of the oblast cannot do anything without Moscow's help. They are helpless.

Thus, recently the Moscow organization of Germans "Franheit" proposed a draft project on the constitutional transformation of Kaliningrad Oblast into a Baltic republic of Germans. This caused emotions, confusion, and unrest in Kaliningrad. In the meantime, the Volga Germans are quietly moving to the oblast and building houses there. The price of one such house is R12 million. Responding to the question about the source of such money, the Volga Germans do not hide the truth: "Representatives of different organizations come and bring the marks."